December 3, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Alexander R. Klein, Chief
Fire Protection Branch
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Harold T. Barrett, Senior Fire Protection Engineer ***/RA/***
Fire Protection Branch
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2008, CATEGORY 2 MEETING REGARDING THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARD 805 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION (FAQ) 06-0008

On November 20, 2008, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a meeting, via teleconferencing, with stakeholders and the public to discuss Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) 06-0008, Fire Protection Engineering Evaluations at plants that are adopting National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805. NRC provided a brief overview of FAQ 06-0008, including the initial problem identified during the NFPA 805 pilot process, the development of subsequent FAQ revisions, and the basis and reasoning behind the most recent draft of FAQ 06-0008. The staff then solicited comments from the stakeholders regarding the proposed draft of FAQ 06-0008.

Stakeholders expressed concern over the process described in the FAQ as the "Bounding Analysis Approach" in that the process would require licensees to foresee into the future to anticipate what needs they would have for use of this approach at the time the NFPA 805 transition License Amendment Request (LAR) was developed. The staff explained that the intent was not to limit use of this approach to only the initial LAR submitted for transition. The FAQ 06-0008 concept was to provide a mechanism for a licensee to submit a request to implement the bounding analysis approach at any time in the future, if the need was identified, and the licensee wanted to take advantage of the flexibility this approach provides.

Stakeholders also expressed concern over the implication in the FAQ that all future deviations from NFPA 805 Fundamental Program and Design Elements (those attributes that are addressed in NFPA 805 Chapter 3) would require the use of the bounding analysis approach. The staff responded by saying that the FAQ is intended to be used as one available mechanism to address needed changes. However, it is not intended to preclude licensees from temporarily addressing issues with other aspects of their fire protection program, such as interim compensatory measures and those controls implemented to address fires in non-power operational modes.

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The stakeholders noted that they might like to revise, add to, or delete the examples cited in the FAQ with respect to the Bounding Analysis Approach. The staff stated that they would consider such a proposal. The stakeholders also stated that although they fully understood the scope and basis for the selected sections of NFPA 805 Chapter 3 that could use the "Adequate for the Hazard" approach, they would like to propose additional sections of Chapter 3 for use under this approach. The staff stated that they would be willing to consider this.

The staff asked the stakeholders when their comments/proposals would be provided to the staff for review. The stakeholders responded that they would attempt to provide their response by the December 4, 2008, FAQ meeting.

FAQ 06-0008 was provided to the stakeholders and the public at the October 23, 2008 FAQ meeting. It is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at accession number ML083010063.

A list of meeting attendees is enclosed with this memorandum.

Enclosure
As stated

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NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION STANDARD 805
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION PROCESS
LIST OF ATTENDEES

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff

Alex Klein
Sunil Weerakkody
Paul Lain
Daniel Frumkin
Harold Barrett

Others

A. Holder (Progress)*
A. Ratchford (Kleinsorg Group)*
D. Goforth (Duke)*
E. Kleinsorg (Kleinsorg Group)*
W. Bush (Constellation)*
R. Dible (AREVA)*
M. Fletcher (AmerenUE)*
R. Gray (AEP)*
K. Halliday (First Energy)*
G. Harris (AmerenUE)*
S. Hutchins (NEI)*
F. dePeralta-Meister (Tri-en Corp)*
P. Ouellette (EPM)*
M. Roder (ARS)*
V. Rubano (FPL)*
T. Shudak (NPPD)*
B. Waggener (PG&E)*
L. Young (Entergy)*
Kellers, Inc.*

*participated via phone

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