



National Fire Protection Association

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Mr. Alex R. Klein
Chief, Fire Protection Branch
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Proposed Standard Review Plan Section 9.5.1.2 on Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Fire Protection Program

Dear Mr. Klein:

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) commends the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for giving us the opportunity to provide comments concerning the NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants, Section 9.5.1.2 on staff guidance on Risk-Informed (RI), Performance-Based (PB) Fire Protection Program (FPP) for Operating Nuclear Power Plants (ADAMS Accession No. ML090050052).

NFPA believes that the goals and constituents of the NRC are best served when its regulations are tied as closely as possible to codes and standards developed in accordance with a full-consensus process, accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). All NFPA codes and standards meet this high standard of quality. In several cases, Congress has mandated the adoption of NFPA codes and standards, including the **NFPA 101 Life Safety Code**, for health care facilities participating in Medicaid and Medicare programs. We encourage the NRC to abide by the Congressional mandate of Public Law 104-113, as described in OMB Circular A119, which dictates that voluntary consensus codes and standards be used when they are applicable and in so doing ensures that nuclear plant safety is the primary concern.

NFPA supports the use of guidance documents that will help existing plants implement risk-informed, performance-based fire protection programs pursuant to the requirements set forth in NFPA 805. **NFPA 805 Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants** (2006 edition) is a performance based standard that describes the methodology for applying performance-based requirements, fundamental fire protection program design and elements, determination of fire protection systems and features, and fire protection during decommissioning and permanent shutdown. This document was assembled through a consensus process with a wide range of technical experts from the nuclear field, which includes representation and active involvement from the NRC.

Recently, the NRC adopted NFPA 805 as a voluntary option for complying with 10 CFR 50.48. Of the 104 nuclear facilities that are operating in the US, at least 48 plants have opted to utilize the risk-informed approach that NFPA 805 permits. One of the benefits to using a risk-informed performance-based approach is that it allows for flexibility. This gives plants more freedoms when addressing fire protection measures that are not as openly available when applying prescriptive measures. This flexibility is an important function for operating plants because most nuclear power plants in the US were designed prior to the fire-protective concerns that were generated as a result of the fire at Browns Ferry in 1976.

NFPA appreciates the opportunity to share our views concerning NRC's role in the providing risk-informed, performance-based fire protection options for existing nuclear power plants. If you have any questions or require additional information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 898 1229 or Paul May, Fire Protection Engineer, at 617 984 7410.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy McNabb", written in a cursive style.

Nancy McNabb, AIA
Director, Government Affairs

cc PMay, GColonna, CDubay
encl: NFPA 805