



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

June 12, 1998

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jackson:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FINAL DRAFT OF THE NRC'S HUMAN PERFORMANCE PLAN

During the 452nd and 453rd meetings of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, April 30-May 2 and June 3-5, 1998, respectively, we reviewed different drafts of the NRC's Human Performance Plan (HPP). Our Subcommittee on Human Factors reviewed an earlier draft of the Plan at a meeting on January 21, 1998. During these reviews, we had the benefit of discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and of the documents referenced.

The staff has informed us that it plans to rename the document as the "NRC Program to Assess Human Performance." As was originally intended, this document is an inventory of human performance activities within the NRC. It also defines a mission statement for the Human Performance Program, as follows:

To ensure effective risk-informed and performance-based regulation and oversight of human performance in the design, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of nuclear reactor sites and other NRC-regulated facilities by:

- 1) identifying human performance issues important to public health and safety; 2) increasing understanding of the causes and consequences of degraded human performance in such settings; and 3) implementing the appropriate regulatory response to such issues.

We agree with the mission statement. The document, however, does not describe a systematic approach for achieving the three goals of the mission statement.

We continue to believe that a plan is needed to identify and prioritize activities related to human performance and to address the issues that we identified in our report dated February 13, 1997, and in our various communications to the staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. L. Seale", is written over a horizontal line.

R. L. Seale  
Chairman

References

1. Memorandum dated April 23, 1998, from Thomas L. King, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, NRC, to John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, Subject: NRC's Human Performance Plan (Predecisional).
2. Memorandum dated May 29, 1998, from Thomas L. King, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, NRC, to John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, Subject: NRC's Human Performance Plan (Predecisional).
3. Report dated February 13, 1997, from R. L. Seale, Chairman, ACRS, to Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman, NRC, Subject: Human Performance Program Plan.
4. Letter dated October 8, 1997, from R. L. Seale, Chairman, ACRS, to L. Joseph Callan, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, Subject: Human Performance and Human Reliability Implementation Plan.
5. Letter dated December 30, 1996, from T. S. Kress, Chairman, ACRS, to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, Subject: ACRS Questions on Human Performance Program Plan.