


Greenwood, Carol

**From:** Gibson, Kathy - RES  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2011 4:12 PM  
**To:** Uhle, Jennifer  
**Cc:** Chang, Richard; Scott, Michael  
**Subject:** SOARCA extension request  
**Attachments:** Kathy Halvey Gibson.vcf; Dear SOARCA Steering Committee members.docx; image001.jpg

Jennifer,  
Attached is a proposed email for you to send to the SOARCA steering committee informing them of the extension request and plans for asking for their review and concurrence on the docs as we complete them.

Let me or Richard know if you want changes or need anything else.

Thanks  
K



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(b)(6)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
Promoting People and the Environment

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EX-6

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Exemptions 6  
FOIAPA 2011-0083

Dear SOARCA Steering Committee members,

I am replacing Jim Lyons as the SOARCA Steering Committee Chair and I want to give you an update on the status of the SOARCA project and plans for requesting your review and concurrence on the report prior to issuing it for public comment.

We requested an extension from the Commission to delay the due date for providing the final SOARCA report from July 7, 2011, to December 15, 2011. Brian Sheron has briefed Mike Weber and Chairman Jaczko on the need for this extension request.

The extension is necessary to allow time to complete additional analyses resulting from peer review comments and licensee fact checks with the pilot plants. Specifically, the staff was informed that the assumptions used in the previously completed interfacing systems loss of coolant accident (ISLOCA) scenario were incorrect at Surry Power Station. The staff has been working closely with the licensee in order to remodel this scenario; including visiting the site in order to ensure that aspects of the plant are modeled correctly. The staff feels that it is particularly important to run a new model of the ISLOCA scenario due to this scenario having the highest source term of all the scenarios and the potential to result in a prompt fatality.

The major peer review issue we have been addressing is revising the offsite consequence model for the other pilot plant (Peach Bottom) to address a new (more realistic) safety relief valve (SRV) failure model. Staff decided to pursue additional SRV analyses in response to questions raised by the peer review committee, and because SRV failure was found to be an influential parameter for consequences.

In addition to technical issues, the loss of key contracting personnel has also contributed to the need to request an extension for this effort. Kenneth (KC) Wagner, a former Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) employee, and a key member of the SOARCA team, left SNL for a private company. We are pursuing a sole source contract to obtain Dr. Wagner's expertise in order to complete the project.

Although completion of the report is delayed, we have established a very aggressive schedule and anticipate issuing the draft report for public comment in the July 2011 timeframe. The report will consist of three parts: a main summary report and two appendices (NUREG/CRs), one with Peach Bottom analyses details and one for Surry analyses details. To facilitate office concurrence prior to issuing the report for public comment, we plan to provide the Peach Bottom appendix for your review and comment when it is completed in about the March timeframe along with a briefing on the document. We will do the same for the Surry appendix in the April timeframe. We will request your comments within 30 days for each appendix. At about the end of May, we will provide the summary document for a 15-day comment and concurrence period. Regarding public comment, we plan to request the public's comments on the main summary report (NUREG), and make the appendices (NUREG/CR) available to the public at the same time to assist their review of the main report.

If you have any questions, please contact me (301-251-7400), Kathy Gibson ([Kathy.Gibson@nrc.gov](mailto:Kathy.Gibson@nrc.gov) or 301-251-7499), or the SOARCA project manager, Richard Chang ([Richard.Chang@nrc.gov](mailto:Richard.Chang@nrc.gov) or 301-251-7980).

Thanks,  
Jennifer Uhle  
SOARCA Steering Committee Chair