

Bauer, Laurel

From: Cook, Christopher -NRU
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 7:29 PM
To: Fretz, Robert
Cc: Lee, Min; Bauer, Laurel; Karas, Rebecca
Subject: action: STP contract with USGS and April journal paper

Bob,
A USGS employee, who is a contractor for us, recently published the attached journal paper. The paper discusses pre-decisional information pertaining to our ongoing STP COL review and contains inaccuracies regarding NRC review requirements. What makes this paper particularly troubling is that the author did not include a disclaimer and presents the information as if the NRC staff supports his view. The RGS staff had no knowledge of this paper before it was published. The paper also discusses the North Anna and Vogtle ESP reviews.

Because the author states "this work was supported by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission," we suspect this work may be associated with the STP COL contract on SER Section 2.5, Geologic and Seismic Review. The technical monitor for this TO is Laurel Bauer (RGS) with Min Lee as the TAPM.

I would like to request your staff's assistance with review of the USGS Umbrella/TO contract language regarding release of pre-decisional information and the MLSRs for notification regarding this paper. Laurel has reviewed the MLSRs and could not find any mention of the paper. After this review, I would also like to request your staff's support discussing this matter with USGS contracts staff and USGS technical management. Please note the RGS is a 'super branch,' so all discussions should (at a minimum) include Becky Karas (RGS1 BC).

Thank you,
Chris

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A/13