



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 3, 2017

Dr. Dennis C. Bley, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: DRAFT NUREG/BR-0058, REVISION 5, "U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION GUIDANCE ON PERFORMING COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES"

Dear Dr. Bley:

This letter provides the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's response to your letters dated March 20, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17075A309), and April 18, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17110A351). In these two letters, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed the draft Revision 5 to NUREG/BR-0058, "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Guidance on Performing Cost-Benefit Analyses."

ACRS Conclusion and Recommendation 1

The draft revision includes significant changes and important improvements to existing guidance, and its finalization will benefit from public comment at this time.

Staff Response to the ACRS Conclusion and Recommendation 1

The staff agrees with this conclusion and recommendation. On April 17, 2017, the staff issued the draft NUREG and its appendices for public comment (ADAMS Accession No. ML17101A355).

ACRS Conclusion and Recommendation 2

Substantial material that is important to the use of the guidance has been identified but not yet been completed. This material should be included and a subsequent opportunity for comment provided, prior to finalization of this revision.

Staff Response to the ACRS Conclusion and Recommendation 2

The staff agrees with the Committee that substantial material is not yet complete. The two-phased approach for updating the cost-benefit guidance is described in SECY-14-0002, "Plan for Updating the NRC's Cost-Benefit Guidance" (ADAMS Accession No. ML13274A519).

The staff is currently working on Phase 1 of the update, which consists of restructuring cost-benefit guidance documents, addressing some policy issues, and identifying specific items for development in Phase 2 of the update. The staff plans to present the complete set of Phase 1 updates to the ACRS after resolution of public comments and prior to finalizing the document.

As the ACRS observes, Phase 2 will include updates to many of the appendices to NUREG/BR-0058. The staff will ensure appropriate ACRS review of changes made as part of Phase 2 of the project. In addition, the staff notes that the appendices will be controlled and issued for public comment as separate documents, similar to the process for issuing sections of the Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800). A table of contents will be provided on the NUREG/BR-0058 public Web site that will show the revision and date updated for the main NUREG report and each of its appendices. If conforming changes are needed to the main NUREG report, the staff will follow its processes for updates to the NUREG.

The staff appreciates the ACRS's involvement in this important topic.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Svinicki
Commissioner Baran
Commissioner Burns
SECY

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