

November 2, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Scott Newberry, Chief  
 Instrumentation and Control Systems Branch  
 Division of Engineering and Systems Technology

FROM: Theodore S. Michaels, Senior Project Manager  
 Non-Power Reactor, Decommissioning and  
 Environmental Project Directorate  
 Division of Reactor Projects - III,  
 IV, V and Special Projects

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DRAFT ANSI/ANS 15.20 - CRITERIA  
 FOR THE REACTOR AND SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR  
 RESEARCH REACTORS

A Working Group has been formed to rewrite ANS 15.15 - Criteria for the Reactor Safety Systems of Research Reactors (1978:R86), which will be withdrawn when the new standard, ANS 15.20 is ready for approval. The new standard will include digital control systems.

A draft "strawman" has been developed for review (Enclosure 1). Also enclosed are draft inputs to go into the standard under the Hardware and Software sections (Enclosures 2 & 3). Your assistance is requested in reviewing these sections and the draft of ANS 15.20 (Enclosure 1).

Your comments/concurrence are requested by November 24, 1989. If you will be unable to meet this date, please notify me at x21102 within 10 days of the date of this memorandum.

Original signed by:

Theodore S. Michaels, Senior Project Manager  
 Non-Power Reactor, Decommissioning and  
 Environmental Project Directorate  
 Division of Reactor Projects - III,  
 IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosures:  
 As stated

cc: A. Adams

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

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theodore S. Michaels".

Theodore S. Michaels, Senior Project Manager  
Non-Power Reactor, Decommissioning and  
Environmental Project Directorate  
Division of Reactor Projects - III,  
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosures:  
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cc: A. Adams

1

DRAFT ANSI/ANS 15.20

2

November 1989

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Criteria for the Reactor and Safety Systems

4

for Research Reactors

FORWORD

(This foreword is not a part of American National Standard Criteria for the Control and Safety Systems of Research Reactors, ANSI/ANS-15.20-19XX)

The American Nuclear Society Standards Secretariat established subcommittee ANS-15 in the fall of 1970 with the task of preparing a standard on the operation of research reactors. In January 1972 this charter was expanded to the multiple tasks of preparing all standards for research reactors. To implement this enlarged responsibility, a number of subcommittee working groups has been established to develop standards for consideration and complementary action by subcommittee ANS-15.

In 1978, a standard dealing with reactor safety systems at research reactors was published; ANSI/ANS-15.15-1978, "Criteria for the Reactor Safety Systems of Research Reactors." In 1987, subcommittee ANS-15 decided that the standard should be revised in light of the advent and use of computer technology in research reactors which could potentially affect the relationship of control and safety systems associated with research reactors. Accordingly, a new working group, ANS-15.15, was established in the fall of 1987 under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert C. Nelson of the United States Air Force with the task of developing an updated standard for control and safety systems at research reactors. The final work group draft was completed and reviewed by ANS-15 on \_\_\_\_\_.

The standard was approved by ANS-15 on \_\_\_\_\_ and presented for processing by N-17 on \_\_\_\_\_. The standard has been redesignated as ANSI/ANS-15.20-19XX, "Criteria for the Reactor Safety Systems for Research

1 Reactors."

2 The membership of ANS-15.20 at the time of completion of the revised standard  
3 was:

4 Robert C. Nelson, Chairman, United States Air Force

5 John Bernard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

6 Bill Hyde, General Atomics

7 Robert Walston, U.S. Department of Energy

8 Jensid Rasvi, General Atomics

9 Frank DiMigglia, Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission

10 Phil Middleton, MIDCO, Inc.

11 , Sandia National Laboratories

12 , Los Alamos National Laboratory

13 , Nuclear Regulatory Commission

14 Several of the requirements of this standard are based on the collective judgment  
15 and experience of the work group as applied to this class of reactors. The  
16 composition of the work group offers a broad spectrum of expertise in research  
17 reactor operation, control, and safety system development and engineering. They  
18 represent a wide variety of research reactors, large and small, and come from  
19 universities, national laboratories, government, and private industry.  
20 Therefore, the requirements specified in the standard represent a reasonable and  
21 responsible approach to the design of control and safety systems for research  
22 reactors.

23 In preparing this standard, the intent has been to specify objectives which:

1 a. Describe a systematic approach to establishing requirements for the  
2 control system of a new research reactor which is commensurate with the risks  
3 involved.

4 b. Describe a systematic approach to establishing requirements for the  
5 Reactor Safety System (RSS) of a new research reactor which is commensurate with  
6 the risks involved.

7 c. Ensure that important items such as safety interlocks are given proper  
8 attention with the greatest degree of latitude given the designer that safety  
9 permits.

10 In this process of creating standards against the background of established and  
11 varied practices in many operating facilities, it is important to consider that:

12 a. It is not intended that the standard be used as a demand model for  
13 backfitting purposes.

14 b. It should be a vital aid for existing and new owner-agency.

15 c. It should be helpful for the facility undergoing change/modification.

16 d. Its thoughtful use by industry should ease the burden of regulatory  
17 agencies.

18 The family of standards and task assignments include:

19 ANS-15.1 Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors

20 ANS-15.2 Quality Control for Plate-Type Uranium-Aluminum Fuel Elements

21 ANS-15.4 Selection and Training of Personnel for Research Reactors

22 ANS-15.7 Research Reactor Site Evaluation

23 ANS-15.8 Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Research Reactors

24 ANS-15.10 Decommissioning of Research Reactors

- 1 ANS-15.11 Radiological Protection of Research Reactor Facilities  
2 ANS-15.14 Physical Security for Research Reactors  
3 ANS-15.16 Emergency Planning for Research Reactors  
4 ANS-15.17 Fire Protection Criteria for Research Reactors  
5 ANS-15.19 Shipment and Receipt of Special Nuclear Material (SNM) by Research  
6 Reactor Facilities  
7 ANS-15.20 Criteria for the Reactor Safety Systems for Research Reactors

8 The membership of Subcommittee ANS-15 at the time of its approval of this  
9 standard was:

- 10 W. J. Richards, Chairman, McClellan Air Force Base  
11 L. C. Brinkerhoff, U.S. Department of Energy  
12 W. J. Brynda, Brookhaven National Laboratory  
13 B. L. Corbett, ORNL, Martin Marrietta Energy Systems, Inc.  
14 A. F. DiMeglio, R. I. Nuclear Science Center  
15 J. P. Farrar, University of Virginia  
16 D. E. Feltz, Texas A & M University  
17 T. F. Luera, Sandia National Laboratory  
18 G. W. Nelson, University of Arizona  
19 R. C. Nelson, United States Air Force  
20 D. P. Pruett, Argonne National Laboratory - West  
21 T. M. Raby, U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology  
22 E. Roybal, U.S. Department of Energy  
23 L. S. Rubenstein, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
24 R. R. Walston, U.S. Department of Energy

1 M. H. Voth, Pennsylvania State University

2 W. L. Whittemore, General Atomics

3 The American National Standards Committee N-17, Research Reactors, Reactor  
4 Physics, and Radiation Shielding had the following membership at the time it  
5 reviewed and approved this standard:

6 R. S. Carter, Chairman

7 T. M. Raby, Secretary

8 Organization	Representative
9 American College of Radiology	M. M. Ter Pogossian
10 American Institute of Chemical Engineers	D. Duffey
11 American Nuclear Society	R. S. Carter
12 American Physical Society	H. Goldstein
13 American Public Health Association	W. A. Holt
14 Health Physics Society	S. H. Brown
15	A. G. Johnson (alt)
16 National Institute of Standards & Technology	T. M. Raby
17 U. S. Department of Energy	P. B. Hemming
18	J. W. Lewellen (Alt)
19 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	L. I. Kopp (ANS-10)
20	L. S. Rubenstein
21 McClellan Air Force Base	W. J. Richards (ANS-15)
22 ORNL, Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Inc.	D. K. Trubey (ANS-6)
23 Union Carbide Corp (retired)	A. D. Callihan (ANS-1)



1 U. S. Army, White Sands Missile Range

A. DeLaPaz (ANS-14)

2 Individual Members

J. D. Buchanan

3

W. L. Whittemore

4

R. E. Carter

5

J. E. Olhoeft

6

A. Weitzberg

1 Criteria for the Control and Safety Systems  
2 of Research Reactors.

3 1. SCOPE

4 This standard documents the criteria from which design requirements are  
5 established for the reactor safety system of an individual research reactor.

6 2. PURPOSE

7 This standard is intended to serve the research reactor community for  
8 establishing criteria for control and safety systems. Its application should  
9 be in lieu of ad hoc application of part or all of any similar standards for  
10 power reactors.

11 3. DEFINITIONS

12 The following terms are defined in order to establish their usage in this  
13 standard and to document the meaning of terms used frequently in the community.  
14 The definitions of several terms (such as Safety Limit, Limiting Safety System  
15 Setting, Engineered Safety Feature, Safety Analysis Report, and Restricted Area)  
16 are not included because they are generally well known or are readily available  
17 in other documents such as Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20,  
18 "Standards for Protection Against Radiation;" Title 10, Code of Federal  
19 Regulations, Part 50, "Licencing of Production and Utilization Facilities;" and  
20 American National Standard for the Development of Technical Specifications for

1 Research Reactors.

2 bypass. The deliberate inhibition of the capability to provide a protective  
3 action; for example, the application of a short circuit across the contacts of  
4 low-flow trip relay either in order to perform a test of the channel or to  
5 operate in a natural convection mode.

6 credible. A postulated event or condition is considered credible unless it has  
7 been shown to have a probability of occurrence that is so infinitesimal that  
8 there is virtually no chance that it will occur. (Usually taken to be an event  
9 probability  $> 10^{-6}$ .)

10 Design Basis Event (DBE). Anticipated operational occurrence (such as the loss  
11 of coolant flow or a reactivity excursion) which is used to determine the  
12 specific design requirements for the reactor safety system.

13 negligible-risk research reactor. A research reactor for which, in the  
14 postulated event of the complete failure of the reactor safety system coincident  
15 with the occurrence of the most adverse Design Basis Event, the radiological  
16 consequences with respect to Public Health and Safety would be negligible.  
17 Negligible radiological consequences are taken to be an exposure/release of  
18 radioactivity, in one day due to an accident, in a quantity which would not  
19 exceed the limit permitted to be released over a year due to routine operations.  
20 Specifically, the consequences could not exceed:

1 (1) the exposure of the whole body<sup>1</sup> of an individual in an unrestricted area  
2 to 0.5 rem of radiation or the exposure of "any other organ" of such an  
3 individual to 1.5 rem of radiation; or

4 (2) the exposure of the whole body of an individual located at an allowed  
5 position in a restricted area of the reactor facility to 5 rem of radiation or  
6 the exposure of "any other organ" of such individual to 15 rem of radiation; or

7 (3) the release of radioactive materials in concentrations at a point where  
8 a member of the public could be located which, if averaged over a period of 24  
9 hours, would exceed 365 times the limits specified for such materials in Title  
10 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, Appendix B, "Concentrations in Air and  
11 Water above Natural Background," Table II.

12 operable. Capable of performing the intended function (providing the protective  
13 action when required) in an acceptable manner.

14 protective action. The initiation of a signal or the operation of equipment  
15 within the reactor safety system in response to a variable or condition of the  
16 reactor facility having reached a limit specified in the Design Basis.

17 (1) At the protective instrument channel level, protection action is the  
18 generation and transmission of a trip signal indicating that a reactor variable  
19 has reached the specified limit.

20 (2) At the protective instrument subsystem level, protection action is the  
21 generation and transmission of a trip signal indicating that the decision has  
22 been made that a Design Basis Event has occurred.

---

23 <sup>1</sup>The "whole body" value shall also apply to the active blood-forming organs,  
24 gonads, fetuses, and lenses of eyes.

1 Note: Protective action at this level would lead to the operation of the  
2 safety shutdown equipment.

3 (3) At the protective instrument system level, protection action is the  
4 generation and transmission of the command signal for the safety shutdown  
5 equipment to operate.

6 (4) At the reactor safety system level, protective action is the operation  
7 of sufficient equipment to immediately shutdown the reactor.

8 protective instrument channel. That combination of discrete modules and  
9 interconnections necessary to sense one reactor variable related to a Design  
10 Basis Event and to initiate and transmit a protective signal if and when that  
11 variable reaches the specified limit.

12 protective instrument subsystem. The combination of protective instrument  
13 channels and any decision logic units (e.g., two-out-of-three) necessary to  
14 determine that one of the Design Basis Events has occurred and to transmit the  
15 necessary protective signals.

16 shall, should, and may. The word "shall" is used to denote a requirement; the  
17 word "should" to denote a recommendation; and the word "may" to denote  
18 permission, neither a requirement nor a recommendation.

19 unsafe failure. Any malfunction such that the unit (i.e., module, channel,  
20 subsystem, system, or piece of equipment) is no longer operable. A malfunction  
21 which results in the immediate execution of the protective action of the unit  
22 is not an unsafe failure.

1 4. DESIGN BASIS

2 The reactor control system (RCS) and reactor safety system (RSS) shall  
3 have a documented design basis, which shall be kept available to facilitate a  
4 determination of the adequacy of the RCS and RSS design, including design  
5 changes. Appropriate sections of the safety analysis report may serve this  
6 purpose.

7 4.1 CONTROL SYSTEM.

8 4.2 SAFETY SYSTEM.

9 For each mode of operation of the research reactor, the design basis shall  
10 address and discuss in appropriate detail at least the following items:

- 11 (1) Each Design Basis Event for which the RSS must function; the limits of  
12 allowable facility conditions for each event.
- 13 (2) The decision criteria for determining which events have consequences  
14 capable of transcending the RSS and therefore are to be accommodated by either  
15 safety interlocks or engineered safety features.
- 16 (3) Safety interlocks to be provided and the specific function of each.
- 17 (4) Those protective actions which must be automatic; those which may be solely  
18 manual.
- 19 (5) The reactor variables to be monitored to detect the occurrence of each  
20 Design Basis Event: for those variables that have spatial dependence, the minimum  
21 number and locations of sensors needed for safety purposes.
- 22 (6) The limiting values of the setpoints at which protective actions must be

1 initiated; requirements to change setpoints to accommodate different modes of  
2 operation of the reactor.

3 (7) The protective instrument subsystem intended to monitor the reactor  
4 variables associated with each Design Basis Event; the number of channels  
5 required in each subsystem; the required separation between both the units of  
6 and interconnections for redundant channels; any required decision logic.

7 (8) Minimum performance requirements for each protective instrument subsystem  
8 including such items as range, accuracy, and response time.

9 (9) The required characteristics of the safety shutdown equipment including  
10 such items as response time and interface with the protective instrument system.

11 (10) The ranges of external conditions (both steady-state and transient;  
12 normal, abnormal, and accident cases) throughout which the RSS must remain  
13 operable.

14 Note: External conditions include such items as the supply power, temperature,  
15 humidity, vibration, radiation, fire, explosion, earthquake, flood, lightning,  
16 missiles, and wind.

17 (11) The conditions having the potential for functional degradation of the RSS  
18 and for which provisions must be incorporated to retain the capability for  
19 protective actions.

20 (12) Bypass capability needed for any part of the RSS; the permissive  
21 conditions associated with the use of each bypass; and related special  
22 precautions.

23 (13) Any design reliability goals for the RSS; the need for test provisions  
24 during reactor operations; objectives, methods, and acceptance limits;  
25 recommended intervals for checks, tests, and calibrations.

26 (14) Beyond those normally provided, any quality assurance requirements needed



1 to accommodate any unusual or unique aspects of the design of the RSS.

2 (15) The administrative controls necessary to satisfy the requirements of this  
3 standard in conjunction with the physical features of the RSS.

#### 4 5. DESIGN CRITERIA

##### 5 5.1 SINGLE FAILURE

6 5.1.1 Statement of the Criterion: The reactor safety system (RSS) design  
7 shall provide a level of reliability and redundancy such that the RSS can, as  
8 a minimum, perform the required protective actions in the presence of any single  
9 failure within the RSS concurrent with:

10 (1) the occurrence of all failures caused by the single failure and

11 (2) all failures caused by the Design Basis Event.

12 Specifically the protective actions required are:

13 (a) those for each safety interlock.

14 (b) the intended automatic detection of each Design Basis Event and the  
15 immediate execution of the safety shutdown of the reactor.

16 (c) the manual execution of safety shutdown of the reactor.

17 5.1.2 Application: Except as provided below, the single failure criterion  
18 stated above shall be applied to the design of the RSS for each research reactor.

19 (1) A probabilistic assessment of the RSS may be used to eliminate certain  
20 postulated failures from consideration on the basis that such failures are shown  
21 not to be credible.

22 (2) For negligible-risk research reactors, compliance with the single  
23 failure criterion for protective actions (a) and (b) of 5.1.1 is not mandatory.



1 (3) For pulse reactors, compliance with the single failure criterion for  
2 protective action (b) in 5.1.1 is not mandatory for those portions of the RSS  
3 which function only for reactivity excursion-type events. A pulse reactor is  
4 a reactor that has been specially designed with an inherent shutdown mechanism  
5 sufficient to allow the reactor to accept large reactivity insertions without  
6 exceeding any safety limit.

7 (4) If trustworthy failure rate data are available, reliability analysis  
8 may be used to demonstrate that the RSS satisfies such sufficient reliability  
9 goals that exemption from compliance with the single failure criterion for  
10 protective actions (a) and (b) in 5.1.1 is justified. The minimum level of  
11 reliability considered generally acceptable for this purpose is that equivalent  
12 to 95% confidence that operation without the needed protective action for a  
13 Design Basis Event will occur no more often than once in the operating life of  
14 the research reactor and 95% confidence that such a failure of the RSS will be  
15 detected prior to or during the startup for the next day of operation.

16 (5) As an alternative to compliance with the single failure criterion for  
17 protective actions (a) and (b) in 5.1.1, the RSS may include methods that  
18 promptly detect unsafe failures and alert the reactor operator, provided that:

19 (a) the composite reliability of the basis portion of the RSS and its  
20 associated fault detection method is comparable to that which would be attained  
21 by direct compliance.

22 (b) the fault detection methods do not introduce a credible common failure  
23 mode.

24 (c) written administrative controls are provided which include appropriate  
25 specific actions to be taken when a failure is detected.

1 5.2 REDUNDANCY.

2 The following types of redundancy shall be considered. To the extent  
3 advantageous and practical, the indicated order of preference shall be  
4 incorporated:

5 (1) Functional diversity - monitoring different reactor variables related  
6 to the Design Basis Event.

7 (2) Equipment diversity - monitoring the same reactor variable using  
8 equipment with different principles of operation.

9 (3) Simple redundancy - monitoring the same reactor variable using  
10 duplicate equipment.

11 5.3 INDEPENDENCE.

12 Where the application of the single failure criterion is mandatory, the  
13 following are also required.

14 5.3.1 Redundant channels and subsystems shall be physically separated from  
15 each other either by suitable barriers or by distances sufficient to accommodate  
16 the external conditions detailed in the design basis.

17 5.3.2 Where signals from redundant units are necessarily brought together,  
18 such as at the inputs of logic units, the RSS shall include sufficient isolation  
19 to prevent an unsafe failure in one unit from causing an unsafe failure in a  
20 redundant unit.

21 5.3.3 Attention shall be given to the situation where a credible single  
22 failure could both initiate a Design Basis Event and cause the loss of the  
23 corresponding protective action at the channel or subsystem level. One such  
24 situation is where a control system input signal is derived from a protective  
25 instrument channel (a neutron-level channel, for example).

1           For any such situation, additional redundancy shall be provided to the  
2 extent necessary to assure that loss of protective action at the system level  
3 is not credible. The additional units shall themselves satisfy 5.1.2 along with  
4 the other requirements of this standard.

#### 5       5.4 FAIL-SAFE DESIGN.

6           A design objective shall be that no malfunction within the system, caused  
7 solely by the variations of external conditions within the ranges detailed in  
8 the design basis, will result in an unsafe failure.

#### 9       5.5 SETPOINTS.

10          The RSS shall include physical features that assure that the proper  
11 setpoints are automatically made active or include features that facilitate  
12 administrative controls to verify the proper setpoints, or both, with the  
13 operating mode of the reactor is changed.

#### 14       5.6 MANUAL INITIATION.

15          Simple and direct means shall be provided for the reactor operator to  
16 immediately activate the safety shutdown equipment.

#### 17       5.7 BYPASSES.

18          5.7.1 The design of the CS and RSS shall provide bypass capability only  
19 where necessary to accommodate essential functions such as: changes in the  
20 operating mode of the reactor or periodic testing which must be conducted during  
21 reactor operation.

1           5.7.2 Bypass of manual initiation provisions of the RSS shall not be  
2 allowed.

3           5.7.3 The RSS shall include features which either physically provide for  
4 or facilitate administrative controls to:

5           (1) prevent unauthorized use of bypasses.

6           (2) limit the types and number of simultaneous bypasses for each mode of  
7 operation to that shown to be acceptable in the design basis, and

8           (3) prevent bypasses being inadvertently left active.

9           5.7.4 The initiation of any bypass during operation shall be immediately  
10 announced both audibly and visually. Thereafter, continuous indication of each  
11 active bypass shall be provided in the normal and immediate field of vision of  
12 the reactor operator.

13           5.7.5 Bypasses of a part of the RSS to perform periodic testing during  
14 reactor operation shall be allowed only when the remainder of the RSS satisfies  
15 5.1.2 and 5.3.4.

16           For one-out-of-two portions of the RSS: when a bypass is necessary for a  
17 brief time to perform periodic testing, compliance with 5.1.2 is not mandatory  
18 if the reliability of the portion remaining active has been shown to be  
19 acceptable. For example, the time permitted for the bypass has been shown to  
20 be so brief that the probability that the active portion might fail during the  
21 bypass time is commensurate with the probability that the one-out-of-two system  
22 might fail during the normal operating time between tests.

1 5.6 COMPLETION OF PROTECTIVE ACTIONS.

2 5.8.1 Each channel shall indicate in a distinctive manner when it is in  
3 the tripped state.

4 5.8.2 Once tripped, the RSS shall remain in the tripped state at the system  
5 level and shall indicate the protective instrument subsystem initiating the  
6 shutdown until deliberate action is taken by the reactor operator.

7 The manual reset mechanism shall not be capable of preventing the  
8 initiation of protective action. The manual reset mechanism for the RSS shall  
9 be physically and electrically separate from mechanisms for any acknowledgement  
10 and reset for alarms that are not part of the RSS

11 5.9 SURVEILLANCE.

12 5.9.1 The RSS shall include capability for periodic checks, tests and  
13 calibrations.

14 5.9.2 In the event that the disabling of a channel (for example, by the  
15 disconnection of a detector) is necessary to conduct a surveillance activity,  
16 the RSS shall include either features which physically assure that operability  
17 is restored before allowing any operation of the reactor for which the  
18 operability is required or features which facilitate administrative controls  
19 which specifically accomplish the same function; for example, a prestart  
20 instrument checklist.

1           5.9.3 Where on-line periodic testing is necessary, such testing shall not  
2 reduce the capability of the RSS below that required by 5.7.5.

3           5.10 ACCESS CONTROL.

4           5.10.1 The RSS shall include physical provisions, such as a keyswitch, to  
5 prevent the unauthorized use of the reactor controls.

6           5.10.2 The RSS shall include physical means, such as recessed screwdriver  
7 adjustments or protective covers, to limit access to setpoint and calibration  
8 adjustments to the extent necessary to prevent inadvertent misadjustments.

9           5.11 CLASSIFICATION AND IDENTIFICATION

10           5.11.1 Any unit that is used both to perform protective actions of the RSS  
11 and nonsafety actions shall be classified as part of the RSS.

12           5.11.2 All RSS equipment, including interconnections, shall be physically  
13 marked in a manner that is obvious and is distinctively indicative of RSS  
14 equipment. When components or modules are mounted within assemblies that are  
15 clearly marked as being part of the RSS, the marking of individual components  
16 or modules is not required.

17           5.11.3 RSS features on drawing, design change documents, etc. shall be  
18 distinctively identified. All RSS drawings shall be kept current.

1 6. QUALITY ASSURANCE.

2 6.1 The quality assurance requirements for the RSS are to be satisfied through  
3 the overall quality assurance program approved for the reactor facility.

4 6.2 The quality of components and modules shall be commensurate with the degree  
5 of their safety importance and any reliability goals of the RSS. Where the use  
6 of one-of-a-kind or unproven designs becomes necessary, such cases are to be  
7 identified and supported by special quality assurance measures.

8 7. HARDWARE.

9 8. SOFTWARE.

10 9. REFERENCES.



HARDWARE

Issues that shall be reviewed for hardware are as follow:

a. Environmental and Seismic Qualification

The hardware should be built and designed to withstand the environmental and seismic background in which the system will operate.

b. Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) Environment

Provisions for precluding or minimizing EMI should be provided. Features such as optical isolation, shielding, bypass filters and signal conditioners should be provided.

c. Power Supplies

The power supplies for the system should be buffered to reduce the possible impact of minor power line fluctuations. Random access memories should be backed-up by battery power. Scram circuits should scram when power is lost to them and self-diagnostic circuits should scram the reactor when fault conditions are detected.

d. Failure Modes and Effects

Probability risk assessment techniques may be used to predict failure to scram for various failure modes. Failure modes such as the following should be considered:

- 1) Physical System Failure (wire breaks, shorts, ground fault circuits)
- 2) Limiting Safety System Setting Failure (failure to detect)
- 3) System Operable Failure (loss of monitoring)
- 4) Computer/Manual Control Failure (automatic and manual scram).



SOFTWARE

An approved verification and validation (V&V) plan for the development of software which performs a safety function shall be provided. Use of Standard ANSI/IEEE-ANS-7-4.3.2-1982 "Application Criteria for Programmable Digital Computer Systems in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Generating Stations" is an appropriate standard for use in V&V of research reactor software except as noted below in Section d.

V&V Plan

Verification and validation (V&V) are two separate but related activities that follow the development of software. Verification determines whether the requirements of one phase of the development cycle have been consistently, correctly, and completely transformed (fulfill the requirements) to the subsequent phase of the cycle. Validation is the testing of the final product to ensure that performance conforms to the requirements of the initial specification. The need for V&V arose because software is very complex, and prone to human errors of omission, commission and interpretation. V&V provides for an independent verifier to work in parallel with, but independent of, the development team to ensure that human errors do not hinder the production of safety software that is reliable and testable.

In executing V&V, certain principles have proven over time to be very effective in software development programs. These principles can serve as a comprehensive reference base for applying the applicable criteria for software evaluations of Class 1E safety systems.

- a. Well defined systems requirements expressed in a well written document including a functional specification which lists in detail the functions that are to be performed by the digital safety system.
- b. A development methodology to guide the production of software. The primary specification for the software provides the foundation for not only sound development but also of effective verification and validation activities. The individual requirements in the specification for any software system describe how the software is to behave in any circumstance. The specification must be reliable and testable. A reliable specification exhibits the following characteristics:
  - Correct - Each requirement of the safety function has been stated correctly.
  - Complete - All of the requirements for the safety function are included.
  - Consistent - The requirements are complementary and do not contradict each other.
  - Feasible - The requirements can be satisfied with available technology.
  - Maintainability - The requirements will be satisfied for the lifetime of the equipment.

- Accuracy - The requirements include the acceptable bounds of operation.
- c. Comprehensive testing procedures should be developed which validate the specific functions that the digital control system and its software are to perform. The organization that tests these functions shall acknowledge that each of these functions have been tested.
- d. A key ingredient in an effective V&V process is the independence of the V&V team from the development organization. The level of independence shall be such that the V&V team shall at least report to a different supervisor than the development organization. This requirement differs from the requirements of Section 4 of Supplement 3S-1 of NQA-1-1979 referred to in ANSI/IEEE-ANS-7-4.3.2-1982 in Section 7.1. In Supplement 3S-1 the V&V team and the development team can report to the same supervisor.