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PUBLIC NOTICE BY THE  
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

DATE: Thursday, November 1, 1990

The contents of this transcript of the proceedings of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, (date) Thursday, November 1, 1990, as reported herein, are a record of the discussions recorded at the meeting held on the above date.

This transcript has not been reviewed, corrected or edited, and it may contain inaccuracies.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANT OPERATION

"Reconstitution of Design Basis Documentation"

Thursday, November 1, 1990

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Conference Room P-110

7920 Norfolk Avenue

Bethesda, Maryland

The Subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:20  
o'clock, p.m., where present were:

J. Carroll, ACRS Subcommittee Chairman

C. Michelson, ACRS Member

P. Shewmon, ACRS Member

1       PRESENT, CONTINUED:

2               E. Wilkins, ACRS Member

3               P. Boehnert, Cognizant ACRS Staff Member

4               E. Imbro, NRR/NRC

5               G. Grimes, NRR/NRC

6               T. Pietrangelo, NUMARC

7               A. Marion, NUMARC

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

[1:20 p.m.]

1  
2  
3 MR. CARROLL: Good afternoon. The meeting will  
4 now come to order. This is a meeting of the Advisory  
5 Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee on Plant  
6 Operations. I am J. Carroll, Subcommittee Chairman. The  
7 ACRS members in attendance are Carl Michelson -- or will be  
8 -- Paul Shewmon and Ernest Wilkins.

9 The purpose of today's meeting is to be briefed by  
10 the NRC and NUMARC on their efforts concerning  
11 Reconstitution of Design Basis Documentation for Nuclear  
12 Power Plants. Paul Boehnert is the cognizant ACRS staff  
13 member for this meeting.

14 The rules for participation in today's meeting  
15 have been announced as part of the notice of this meeting  
16 previously published in the Federal Register on October 17,  
17 1990. A transcript of the meeting is being kept and will be  
18 made available as stated in the Federal Register Notice.

19 It is requested that each speaker first identify  
20 himself or herself and speak with sufficient clarity and  
21 volume into a microphone so that he or she can be readily  
22 heard. We have received no written comments or requests to  
23 make oral statements from members of the public.

24 Do any of the Subcommittee members have anything  
25 they'd like to discuss at this point?

1 [No response.]

2 MR. CARROLL: Okay, we'll then proceed with the  
3 meeting, and I'll call on the staff to begin.

4 MR. IMBRO: I'm Gene Imbro, Section Chief in the  
5 Special Inspection Branch.

6 MR. CARROLL: Who are you?

7 MR. GRIMES: He's going to make the presentation.  
8 Let me introduce myself; I'm Brian Grimes, Reactor  
9 Inspection Safeguards Division.

10 [Slide.]

11 MR. IMBRO: I am Gene Imbro with NRR in the  
12 Special Inspection Branch. I'd like to talk to you today  
13 about the Reconstitution of Design Bases and Design  
14 Documents. The subjects I'm going to cover today are first  
15 of all, trying to define what design documents are, go  
16 through a little bit of the NRC efforts we've gone through  
17 to put together a NUREG, provide some observations on  
18 utility programs and also to give you some of the  
19 observations on some of those utility programs that we've  
20 seen.

21 MR. CARROLL: Brian and Gene, this is strictly a  
22 briefing to us? You're not expecting a letter or a formal  
23 comment necessarily?

24 MR. GRIMES: That is correct. It's just a  
25 briefing to update you on what we're doing at present in

1 this area.

2 [Slide.]

3 MR. IMBRO: Just to go through quickly what  
4 prompted the utility efforts in reconstitution of design  
5 bases, NRC has been conducting team inspections probably for  
6 the last five years since 1984 or 1985. Those have been  
7 basically safety system functional inspections and safety  
8 system outage modificati~~or~~ inspections.

9 There's kind of a common thread that goes through  
10 all of these inspections. When we look at the facility  
11 design, particularly of older facilities, many of the design  
12 documents are not available to support facility  
13 modifications.

14 As a result of the inspections we've conducted,  
15 utilities really became cognizant of the fact that this was,  
16 in fact, a problem and they, on their own, have initiated  
17 design document reconstitution programs.

18 MR. SHEWMON: Actually, in the case of the  
19 pressure vessel and welds, often they don't have samples  
20 from the way it was done originally, much less the  
21 modifications. Is that also a part of the program?

22 MR. IMBRO: Well, we didn't look at that level of  
23 detail, but that's true in general. In a lot of cases, not  
24 only is the documentation to support modifications not  
25 available, but also, many of the findings we have go back to

1 the original design and, in fact, there's a lack of original  
2 design material.

3 [Slide.]

4 MR. IMBRO: We started to talk about design basis  
5 documentation and we found out that there were a lot of  
6 different definitions of design basis documentation. People  
7 perceived things differently.

8 Of course, when we talked about missing design  
9 basis documentation, we were really referring to not only  
10 the design bases and design criteria, but also the  
11 calculations that show how the design basis is implemented  
12 and the design output documents. Some utilities perceive  
13 the term design basis documentation, to mean just the  
14 design criteria, so some utilities focused on, in the design  
15 document constitution programs, focused on strictly  
16 regeneration of criteria.

17 What was used as design input for the plant? So,  
18 when we talk about design documents -- we basically use the  
19 term design documents to kind of make it more sweeping, that  
20 we don't only mean design bases but we mean all the design  
21 documents.

22 [Slide.]

23 MR. IMBRO: The design documents kind of fall into  
24 three different categories which are fairly obvious. The  
25 first category is what people would refer to as design input



1 documents and you know, they are the RC regulations,  
2 guidance presented by the Standard Review Plan and Reg  
3 Guides, industry standards, design procedures and the like.  
4 Certainly, the vendor specified data, vendor performance  
5 requirements are also a design input.

6 Then, I guess, skipping across, the final design  
7 output documents would be the things that are used to  
8 procure equipment and construct the facility. You're  
9 talking about things like drawings, purchase specs, setpoint  
10 lists, valve lists and the like.

11 The bridge between those two is really the design  
12 analyses, what translates the design input to the design  
13 output.

14 MR. MICHELSON: Gene, there seems to be one step  
15 missing in that slide. Maybe it's in there and I just don't  
16 see it, but admittedly, there are a large number of  
17 requirements and regulations which we call here design input  
18 documents. The key element, though, in getting on to doing  
19 design analyses and producing output is to interpret the  
20 input documents.

21 That interpretation step is extremely important so  
22 that you know how the designer interpreted the regulations;  
23 in other words, what did he think they were saying and  
24 therefore, what he's going to provide.

25 Where is that interpretation step in your process?

1 That's got to be documented. It's very important to know  
2 how the person interpreted the regulation.

3 MR. IMBRO: It's really the transition from here  
4 to here. It's not really defined per se.

5 MR. MICHELSON: The hardest thing to find lately.  
6 Sometimes it's there. A lot of things don't have system  
7 descriptions. System description doesn't fit a lot of the  
8 situations, a lot of calculations and evaluations. They  
9 don't fit the system description idea, but there has to be  
10 some kind of a transition document which is really your  
11 design basis as you interpreted it from the regulations and  
12 all the other things.

13 MR. GRIMES: The calculations and evaluations have  
14 to indicate what their input is and what their assumption  
15 are.

16 MR. IMBRO: I would put that in this box, Design  
17 Procedures. That's how the AE's or whoever is designing,  
18 interprets all these documents and implements them.

19 MR. MICHELSON: That's the difficult information  
20 to recover later; is, okay, I know what the regulations said  
21 then and here's what they did, but something happened in  
22 between. How did that individual go astray or how did he  
23 interpret the regulations incorrectly.

24 He might have had quite good logic on what he did.  
25 It's just not documented and we never know later. I guess

1 it's not possible to recover, but in the future, it ought to  
2 be a part of your requirements.

3 MR. CARROLL: I guess I would view what you are  
4 describing as part of the evaluation.

5 MR. MICHELSON: In a way, yes, but you have to  
6 make a lot of assumptions.

7 MR. GRIMES: I think one thing that will come out  
8 later, when Gene describes the survey results, is that  
9 everybody had a different design configuration process, and  
10 everyone has a different set of documents and a document  
11 logic to go with that. So, we have shied away from  
12 specifying specific documents, but we expect certain things  
13 to be accomplished.

14 MR. MICHELSON: I expect you should be able to  
15 find somewhere what are the interpretations of the  
16 regulations. It's different than assumptions. It is the  
17 interpretation of a regulation.

18 [Slide.]

19 MR. IMBRO: Your point is well-taken, and many  
20 times, in doing inspections, or particularly when we were  
21 doing IDVPs or looking at IDVPs for reactors that were about  
22 to be licensed, you'd have different AEs conflicting over --  
23 in our company, we interpret the code to mean this, and  
24 another AE says, no. So, you raise a valid point.

25 I just wanted to talk a little bit about

1 regulatory design bases and engineering design bases, and  
2 this is kind of a little bit of a sticky thing, I guess, but  
3 the regulatory design basis, I think we're being consistent  
4 with what's termed current licensing bases for life  
5 extension, but for a regulatory design bases, we mean  
6 basically the documents that were looked at by the staff to  
7 form their safety judgments on the licensing documents for  
8 the plant.

9           So, you have, again, regs, tech specs, the SER,  
10 all the licensing commitments, and actually, there is a  
11 definition of design bases in 50.2. The engineering design  
12 bases is really a lot broader set of information and  
13 criteria.

14           It includes, certainly, the regulatory design  
15 bases, but it also includes a lot of other things that the  
16 staff may or may not consider, because they're not really  
17 directly safety-related, and in a lot of cases, the non-  
18 safety-related functions sometimes are the determining  
19 factor for the size of the safety-related equipment. So,  
20 the engineering design basis is a little bit broader.

21           Also, it includes so-called good practice  
22 documents and standards. So, the engineering design basis  
23 is pretty much all-encompassing, and that will be kind of  
24 what an architect or a designer would use as the total  
25 design input.

1 [Slide.]

2 MR. IMBRO: Just quickly, to go through why design  
3 documents are necessary, certainly, as the slide indicates,  
4 you really need to have documentation available to support  
5 plant modifications, and in the case of a new plant,  
6 certainly if the original documentation is not there to  
7 document the design, then certainly it's hard to modify the  
8 plant if you don't know where you're starting from.

9 In the same vein, the documents really help you in  
10 making a plant modification, to help you quantify design  
11 margins and design envelope, operating envelope, and  
12 certainly, it's basically the record of the as-configured  
13 plant.

14 [Slide.]

15 MR. IMBRO: What we did as a staff is we had been  
16 aware of many utilities going out and spending, in some  
17 cases, substantial sums of money to recreate design  
18 documents, and we decided that it would be appropriate for  
19 us to go and look and see, more or less, what their process  
20 was and to try and understand, give us a handle on what the  
21 status of the industry was in terms of design documentation,  
22 how much was really available, how good or bad was the  
23 situation in terms of document availability.

24 So, we visited six licensees, and we talked to one  
25 NSSS vendor, General Electric, and we looked at the

1 availability of design documents. We also looked even  
2 further. We looked at how utilities control their design  
3 and how they made modifications to the plant and how the  
4 utility groups interface with each other, and for some  
5 utilities, of the ones we visited, that had design  
6 documentation programs, we tried to gain an insight into  
7 what they were doing and what their approach was.

8 [Slide.]

9 MR. IMBRO: As a result of our limited survey --

10 MR. CARROLL: Which utilities were those?

11 MR. IMBRO: In the next slide, I will get to that,  
12 if you'll bear with me for just a minute.

13 Basically, we intend to put out -- issue a NUREG,  
14 which has kind of been a long time in the making, but it  
15 should be out, hopefully, before the end of the year, and  
16 the NUREG is going to -- will be a good practice NUREG.

17 It will talk to the following areas: what design  
18 documents we think should be controlled and should be  
19 maintained as configured; if design documents need to be  
20 reconstituted, if you find, when you do your survey, do your  
21 design documentation program that design documents are  
22 missing, which ones do you need to regenerate and which  
23 ones, maybe, do we not have to regenerate.

24 Also, we like to give some insights into the  
25 strengths and weaknesses of some of the utility-initiated

1 design reconstitution programs and talk a little bit about  
2 configuration management. The thing is, though, that each  
3 licensee really has given us a different perspective that we  
4 have gone to see, and certainly, each licensee has their own  
5 particular needs.

6 So, it's really hard to -- there is not one  
7 program that will suit everybody. Each utility really needs  
8 to do their own thing, as it were, because they have  
9 different organizations and they have different needs.

10 [Slide.]

11 MR. IMBRO: For the licensees that were surveyed,  
12 we tried to take a mix of new and old plants, and so, we  
13 went through Robinson, which is certainly old, or older,  
14 Susquehanna and Diablo Canyon, which are fairly new. Fort  
15 Calhoun is an old-generation plant, as is Crystal River and  
16 Turkey Point.

17 So, we tried to get kind of a cross-section of  
18 what different people were doing and what the different  
19 status of design documents was.

20 Yes?

21 MR. SHEWMON: Crystal River is Combustion, and  
22 Turkey Point is Westinghouse?

23 MR. IMBRO: Turkey Point is Westinghouse. Crystal  
24 River is B&W.

25 MR. GRIMES: Fort Calhoun is CE.

1 MR. IMBRO: It's Westinghouse, BWR, GE,  
2 Westinghouse, CE, B&W, Westinghouse.

3 MR. CARROLL: Now, of those six utilities, only  
4 PG&E has historically done its own engineering and  
5 construction management.

6 MR. IMBRO: That's right. It's kind of  
7 interesting, because older utilities, at least at that time,  
8 the time of the survey, which is probably about a year and a  
9 half ago, older utilities didn't really see the need to do  
10 DBDs.

11 The utilities that had newer plants, like PP&L and  
12 Diablo Canyon, really didn't see the need to do them at that  
13 time. PG&E had something that was kind of like a DBD, but  
14 it wasn't -- but the purpose was more to provide the  
15 operation staff with an insight into the design, rather than  
16 a document to be used by designers, because they felt that  
17 they had adequate documentation and they really didn't need  
18 a design document reconstitution program, primarily, as you  
19 say, because they were their own AE.

20 From an NRC point of view, we don't really -- we  
21 haven't really forced people to do design document  
22 reconstitution programs. However, we do require that they  
23 have adequate design documentation. So, whatever it takes  
24 to get there.

25 MR. SHEWMON: I guess I am trying to -- I'd like



1 to back you up about two steps, I guess. The reason you're  
2 doing this is that for plant life extension, you have to  
3 know what the design basis is. Is that right?

4 MR. IMBRO: That's probably true, but that's not  
5 really the reason we started.

6 MR. GRIMES: That may be a side benefit, but the  
7 reason we started was, starting with the Davis-Besse event,  
8 we realized there were a lot of problems in functionality of  
9 safety systems that related directly back to engineering and  
10 the control of engineering, and so, we started doing safety  
11 system functional inspections and outage modification  
12 inspections. Those gave us a lot of results where there  
13 were clearly safety systems that would not have responded in  
14 the event of a challenge.

15 Utilities recognized the validity of those  
16 findings and began on their own looking into the root cause  
17 of that, which both we and they agreed, in many cases, was a  
18 lack of good configuration control in their design process  
19 and a lack of access to documents, so that the engineers  
20 doing modifications to the plant could really know why the  
21 system was configured the way it was and take that into  
22 account.

23 MR. MICHELSON: -- design basis for the motor  
24 operated valves so they had incorrectly adjusted them in  
25 some cases.

1 MR. GRIMES: That's right.

2 [Slide.]

3 MR. IMBRO: I guess what we're expecting in terms  
4 of level of design documentation -- I guess expecting  
5 utilities to have -- is, first of all, we've got to define  
6 the term "essential design documents" and essential design  
7 documents, we feel, is those documents that are used  
8 frequently by the operating staff during normal plant  
9 operation and to respond to events and also documents that  
10 are used by the engineering -- by engineering -- to support  
11 plant operation and, you know, some of those things would --  
12 naturally, we would expect utilities to have up to date P &  
13 IDs and single lines and schematics.

14 And from the engineering side they would need to  
15 have as an essential document those documents that support  
16 tech spec values and that type of thing.

17 So, as a minimum, we'd like to see utilities to  
18 have essential design documents and also then if they go  
19 ahead and decide to modify a system they certainly should  
20 recreate whatever documentation they need to form the basis  
21 of the modification. And you have to regenerate whatever  
22 you need to do that.

23 [Slide.]

24 MR. IMBRO: We felt that for some of the older  
25 plants it's rather unreasonable to ask them to go back and

1 regenerate design documentation that maybe was done 20 or 25  
2 years ago and was lost over the years. To ask some  
3 utilities, particularly that have older vintage plants to do  
4 that, I mean, is asking them to spend probably hundreds of  
5 millions of dollars. And in a lot of cases it's not  
6 necessary. So we tried to have a balance.

7 We found that where we found the most problems and  
8 particularly with some of the plants -- TVA plants -- was  
9 that utilities tend to get in the most trouble when the  
10 engineering group doesn't have the design authority. It  
11 doesn't control the plant design.

12 When operations really drives the design and  
13 controls the plant design bases it's probably more likely  
14 when you're going to see things go amuck. People have  
15 different focuses.

16 So we certainly advocate strong engineering  
17 organizations that control the design bases.

18 [Slide.]

19 To get to survey observations for the design  
20 reconstitution programs that we saw, I guess we were able to  
21 draw the following conclusions -- observations.

22 We feel that, although all utilities may not need  
23 design document reconstitution programs, all should evaluate  
24 whether or not they need to embark on such a program. They  
25 should look at the design documentation they have now, look

1 at the staff turnover. Are a lot of senior people still  
2 there or are a lot of senior people planning to retire? Are  
3 they going to lose all this wealth of information shortly?

4 How easy is it to make modifications? In some  
5 cases, you go and talk to utility and they'll tell you that  
6 half the engineering hours spent in doing a modification is  
7 trying to retrieve the documents.

8 And so people really need to do some self-  
9 evaluation to decide whether or not they need to do a  
10 program. And if they do, they should do it.

11 Not surprising, the need for a DBD program is  
12 proportional to the facility age. Documents tend to get  
13 lost over the years. Either that or else they're not  
14 maintained. They're not kept up to date.

15 Again, design documentation programs should meet  
16 the unique utility needs because everyone really operates  
17 differently. So in doing self-evaluation I think it's  
18 important that utilities decide what exactly they want from  
19 a DDR program before they start and then craft the program  
20 to that model.

21 One thing we felt that was also particularly  
22 important was utility staff involvement in design  
23 documentation review programs.

24 It would seem like some of these utilities are  
25 spending 20, 40, \$60 million, and if you're going to have

1 all that done by contractors it seems like there's a lot of  
2 wealth of information that's kind of then retained in the  
3 minds of the people that are doing it. It would seem like  
4 to have your own staff involved in that would be certainly  
5 beneficial, first of all to get them smart as to how the  
6 plant was designed. And, certainly, you would retain -- be  
7 able to retain that inhouse. But also it gives your staff  
8 more of a sense of ownership for the system.

9           So I think it's important if a utility embarks on  
10 a DDR program they shouldn't just turn it over to a  
11 contractor and say, hey, produce me a set of design bases  
12 documents. They should really work with the people.

13           As I mentioned before, stronger inhouse  
14 capabilities are needed, too, I think -- and not all  
15 utilities. I mean, the larger utilities have pretty large  
16 engineering staffs.

17           Some of the small ones, though, rely heavily on  
18 outside contractors to do plant modifications. And  
19 certainly there's nothing wrong with contractors doing  
20 modifications. I mean, they certainly do a good job, but it  
21 would seem like for the utility to really understand their  
22 plant and to retain ownership of the design so to speak they  
23 should at least have enough inhouse capability to ask  
24 intelligent questions about how the plant is being modified.  
25 I mean, after all, they own it. They operate it. And so

1 they should understand it.

2 MR. WILKINS: Let me ask a question in that  
3 regard. There's a modification that they want to turn over  
4 to a contractor. Who originates the modification? The  
5 utility?

6 MR. IMBRO: The utility would. Sure.

7 MR. WILKINS: Yeah. Of course. So somebody in  
8 the utility must have had some reason to think that the  
9 modification was desirable.

10 MR. IMBRO: Oh, it's not a question of desirable  
11 but it's how it's implemented. You know, did the designer  
12 do the right thing? Did they ask the right questions? Did  
13 they do the right analyses? Did they use the right  
14 criteria?

15 MR. WILKINS: And why did they do it this way  
16 instead of that way?

17 MR. IMBRO: Right. Don't just go out and order it  
18 and say, look, I want it. And then put it in and then just  
19 stand back and kind of walk away from it.

20 To my mind people should be involved. At least  
21 should be smart enough to ask the right questions. I mean,  
22 they might not have to know how to do all the work because a  
23 lot of distress analysis and thermohydraulics analysis is  
24 pretty arcane and maybe very few people know how to do them  
25 and all the ins and outs. But I guess it's my feeling that

1 utilities should at least have staff that's sufficiently up  
2 to speed on those to ask the right questions as to what's  
3 being done.

4 Also, with DBDs if you go through all the trouble  
5 of -- and expense of -- the developing of a set of design  
6 bases documents, then you certainly should keep them updated  
7 and maintain them as built with the plant.

8 And I guess, obviously, one of the other benefits  
9 is they would cut down on all that time spent during the  
10 modification process of trying to retrieve documents.

11 [Slide.]

12 MR. IMBRO: We are advocating the utilities use --  
13 it's a suggestion -- kind of a template approach in sitting  
14 down and developing DBDs. What I mean by a template  
15 approach is it's hard to know what's missing unless you know  
16 really what you're looking for, so before people or  
17 utilities go out and develop a DBD program or develop a DBD,  
18 they should first ask themselves the question of, Well, what  
19 information do I really need to have to assure that system  
20 is going to perform its function, and what parameters do I  
21 need to know, and what ranges of the parameters are  
22 acceptable?

23 Once you have that in hand, then you can go  
24 through the boxes of documentation, and after you finish,  
25 you know what you have and what you need, and whether or not

1 you need to reconstitute it.

2           Again, some utilities, we found, tended to do  
3 this, just reconstitute design bases, but we also feel that,  
4 in some instances, they really should give some  
5 consideration and regenerate supporting calculations.  
6 That's what we found before.

7           Another thing we found was that in some instances,  
8 there was no defined prioritization program to regenerate  
9 missing documents. Again, we're not saying that you need to  
10 regenerate everything, but at least you need to decide what  
11 has to be regenerated, and then also then put it into some  
12 prioritization scheme.

13           Some utilities were pretty sophisticated, and they  
14 are using a PRA approach to determine the safety  
15 significance of the missing information, and they use that  
16 to prioritize whether or not missing documents or what  
17 scheduled documents need to be regenerated.

18           Others used kind of more of an engineering  
19 judgment type of approach, and some other utilities just put  
20 them aside and said, Well, I know this is missing. I guess  
21 I'll regenerate it when I finish the program, or that type  
22 of thing. But we obviously don't think the last approach is  
23 very good, and people should think up front about how  
24 quickly the need to regenerate some of these missing  
25 documents.



1 I talked about essential documents before. I  
2 won't go through that again.

3 One thing we really think is very important is  
4 that utilities need to do a field validation of DBDs. Once  
5 you spend all the money to finally figure out what your  
6 design bases really are, then you should go out in the plant  
7 and say, Okay, now that I know what my criteria are, does  
8 the plant still need them? After 20 years of modifications,  
9 do I still need my design bases? So we think that just  
10 creating shelves of paper doesn't really do you a whole lot  
11 of good unless you go out and make sure that the plant  
12 really does meet what you think it should.

13 Also kind of in the same vein, we've noticed that  
14 in looking through design documentation that was available,  
15 people would kind of take a calculation at face value and  
16 not really verify whether or not it was still valid or still  
17 accurate. People would just kind of tend to say, Well, I  
18 have a calculation for NPSH for the safety injection pump.  
19 That's okay. Check the box and go on.

20 We feel that, certainly for the CALCs that have  
21 gone through the Appendix B independent review, that you  
22 don't really need to do a detailed technical review to  
23 verify what's already been done before, but certainly, if  
24 you give it a sanity check, and say, Hey, does it still  
25 match the plant if the calc was done 25 years ago? Is the

1 calc still valid? Are the assumptions still reasonable?

2 That type of thing.

3 [Slide.]

4 MR. IMBRO: As a final slide, operability and  
5 reportability was really a major concern of utilities we  
6 spoke with, and there was always the question of, If I don't  
7 have documentation to justify a system design, is it  
8 operable? Do I need to report it?

9 There were a lot of cases in the beginning where  
10 people were cycling their facilities pretty regularly  
11 because they didn't have design documentation available.  
12 They'd almost begin kind of a shutdown process until they  
13 were able to recreate the design documentation or determine  
14 whether it was a problem.

15 I don't want to get into a whole lot of detail on  
16 this, but the staff now is putting out guidelines on  
17 operability, operability determinations, and pretty much,  
18 the nuts and bolts of it is you really need to look at the  
19 safety significance of the information that's missing, and  
20 you need to make a judgment as to whether or not you think  
21 that the information is going to cause you a problem or not,  
22 or the fact that it's missing. Do you think the outcome is  
23 going to be okay when you regenerate the information?

24 MR. SHEWMON: You said three sentences ago that  
25 they were cycling up and down, or this is --

1 MR. IMBRO: In some cases they were, yes.

2 MR. SHEWMON: Could you give me an example of what  
3 would cause cycling and tell me what the period of these  
4 cycles are? Are we talking about quarters or weeks?

5 MR. IMBRO: I mean, it's not cycles in that term.  
6 What I meant was that, you know, if they found a piece of  
7 design documentation missing, the plant might be in an  
8 orderly shutdown. In some cases, I think they may have shut  
9 down plant until --

10 MR. SHEWMON: It was safe yesterday when they were  
11 ignorant, but today, we're smarter, so we have to shut the  
12 plant down. Is that it?

13 MR. IMBRO: Oh, we didn't say that was a good  
14 idea, but people were kind of confused and said, Hey -- you  
15 know, they didn't really know what to do. They knew that  
16 there was documentation missing. They didn't know if the  
17 plant was safe or not safe, and I guess they said, Well, if  
18 I don't have the documentation, I'll just declare a system  
19 inoperable and follow my tech specs as kind of the safe --  
20 you know, what they perceived was the safe thing to do.

21 But you're right. I mean, the plant's been  
22 operating for 20 years. The fact that you don't have a  
23 piece of paper doesn't necessarily make the system  
24 inoperable when it's been working fine for all these years.

25 That's why it's kind of a good lead into the

1 premise of operability. We basically are saying that the  
2 fact that the documentation is missing doesn't necessarily  
3 mean the system is inoperable.

4       You can presume the system is still operable, I  
5 mean, providing you have some engineering basis to do so.  
6 Not necessarily documentation, but use reasonable  
7 engineering judgment, maybe look at test data, surveillance  
8 data, start-up test data, whatever else you can, and if you  
9 can reasonable conclude that the fact that the documentation  
10 is missing doesn't really cause a problem, and you have a  
11 high level of confidence that the system is designed okay,  
12 then, you know, just keep on going.

13       Also, the question is -- the point is that the  
14 decision process needs to be kind of continuous. I mean, as  
15 you discover new information, then you really need to re-  
16 evaluate whether or not your original decision was correct.  
17 So it's kind of an iterative type thing.

18       Reliability. Basically there is no change in  
19 the reporting requirements. If you find you are operating  
20 outside of your design basis, then you need to report it by  
21 50.72 or 50.73; whatever is appropriate.

22       One thing we -- an NUMARC probably will talk  
23 about this a little bit later, I suppose. In the -- let me  
24 talk a little bit about the NUMARC guidelines. NUMARC has  
25 put out a design -- I guess you have a copy of it -- their

1 program -- design basis program guidelines. We've  
2 participated with them over the last year, year and a half I  
3 guess in developing it.

4 ' They've been very responsive to the staff comments  
5 -- have incorporated a lot of the staff comments and are in  
6 the process of putting out a letter basically saying that  
7 the NUMARC guidelines form a useful basis for people to use  
8 the craft or DBD program and also provide some -- some  
9 reasonably good insights into -- into the DBD process. We  
10 think it is a worthwhile document and a lot of what I'm  
11 saying here is also -- is contained in the NUMARC document  
12 and they -- they and the staff were in agreement on the  
13 position.

14 To get back what I was saying. One of the things  
15 NUMARC proposes and other utilities have proposed in some  
16 meetings with NRC is that rather than -- if you're going to  
17 file an LER, rather than developing a corrective action for  
18 each LER, which you may do anyway; but what you should do is  
19 then wait until you've finished the DBD and look at all the  
20 LDR's again in total and see whether or not there's  
21 something that falls out of -- out of the combined picture  
22 and maybe that -- maybe that will identify additional  
23 corrective actions that are needed.

24 So, those kind of -- then take -- after you've  
25 gone -- looked at the original findings, it's time to step

1 back and look at what it means in total.

2 NRC's enforcement policy has been changed once to  
3 basically encourage utility initiator programs. Certainly  
4 utilities were concerned with the fact that if you spent  
5 millions of dollars, then would the staff then turn it  
6 against them and say, hey, but you operated outside of your  
7 design basis and then possibly be cause for a violation or  
8 civil penalty.

9 I think the enforcement policy was changed once to  
10 -- to reflect the fact that if you -- if you do find a  
11 situation that would be a violation; I believe it's for  
12 anything Level 3 or less, that the staff would waive the  
13 civil penalty, but issue the violation. I think presently  
14 under consideration in enforcement policy is another change  
15 that's yet to be promoted in which the staff is considering  
16 then not only eliminating the civil penalty, but then also  
17 to not even site or give a violation. That's something  
18 that's being considered by the staff now.

19 So, that basically concludes my part of the  
20 presentation. Any comments, questions?

21 MR. CARROLL: Do you have any plans to expand all  
22 this good advice to somebody starting with a clean sheet of  
23 paper on a certified design, or on a certified plant?

24 MR. IMBRO: Well, I mean, certainly, as we  
25 discussed yesterday, we think that design bases and system

1 descriptions and that type of information should be properly  
2 certified. Even as I discussed before -- even some of the  
3 newer plants that we visited or even people that we didn't  
4 visit, have decided that they really need a design document  
5 for a reconstitution program because they feel that -- they  
6 see the mistakes that have been historically made. They  
7 don't want to repeat those; they don't want to get into a  
8 position 10 years from now where they don't have design  
9 documentation.

10 MR. CARROLL: Yes, and if you do it right from day  
11 1, the other thing you can do is -- is develop the database  
12 or a very sophisticated computer-based information  
13 management system so you can really find things in a hurry.  
14 You want to know how many of this kind of relay and where  
15 they are is and that sort of thing.

16 MR. IMBRO: Yes. We've seen some at some of the  
17 plants we visited. I think Crystal River had a -- it seemed  
18 like they had a pretty good system. I forget what they call  
19 it -- Configuration Retrieval Information System or  
20 something like that. But they had all plant information on  
21 optical disks. You could go in by part number and pull out  
22 everything you ever wanted to know about a particular valve.  
23 I guess you could sort it probably any which way you wanted.  
24 So, yes, I think a lot of people are developing that  
25 capability. But, you're right. It's easy to start with it

1 up front and as you proceed with the design, to put the  
2 information into the system.

3 MR. SHEWMON: To pick a utility at random, did  
4 PG&E have something like that?

5 MR. CARROLL: Yes, we do, but it -- it -- it cost  
6 me \$7.5 million to reconstitute the component database or to  
7 put a decent component database together for our PIMS  
8 System. We literally had to go out and look at the 70,000  
9 components on each unit to make sure we knew what we had  
10 there for starters. That's why I'm sensitive to -- if you  
11 really set up a program with that kind of end in mind at the  
12 beginning of a design, you'd sure be miles ahead.

13 MR. SHEWMON: Yes, it does sort of bring up the  
14 question of -- I guess you brought up, future plants before  
15 and if somebody does have an outside AE do their work for  
16 them, what kind of a package do they get delivered, or where  
17 do the records -- what sort of a package -- what sort of  
18 paperwork package do they get delivered and will it be any  
19 different in the future than it has been in the past after  
20 you've got done doing what you're doing now and what NUMARC  
21 is going to tell us about?

22 MR. IMBRO: We would hope so certainly, but in  
23 fact, some of the things we've seen in the past is that --  
24 you know, it's all kind of a contractual thing, where you'd  
25 go to a utility and ask to see certain calculations and



1 design documentation and they'll tell you, well, we never  
2 got it from the AE because the AE was never -- it wasn't  
3 part of our contract to get the calculations. We bought a  
4 plant, we didn't buy the design so to speak.

5 MR. SHEWMON: You don't think its existence should  
6 be part of the regulations; you see no basis for that?

7 MR. IMBRO: Well, I'm not saying, I don't know  
8 whether it should be part of the regulations -- I'm not  
9 disagreeing that it's a good idea. Whether we'd push it  
10 that far --

11 MR. SHEWMON: Well, I'm asking --

12 MR. GRIMES: Well, we have certain requirements  
13 for knowledge of design control when you make modifications  
14 now. I guess our focus is mainly when you -- when you  
15 modify the plant you have to establish that you know what  
16 you're working with before you modify it. As time goes on,  
17 we expect to see, even without these programs, better and  
18 better design documents as you work on different parts of  
19 the plan.

20 MR. SHEWMON: That is a regulation that you have  
21 to know what the design basis was before you should --  
22 before you modify it?

23 MR. GRIMES: Yes. You have to know whether you're  
24 decreasing design margins to know whether you need NRC  
25 approval.

1 MR. IMBRO: That's right. I mean, that type of  
2 thing is contained in 50.59. But also, even in Appendix B,  
3 criterion 3 on design control basically requires that you  
4 have a documented design basis. I mean, we feel that there  
5 are enough -- that the regulations are really in place, it's  
6 just a question of not being implemented properly.

7 MR. GRIMES: Everyone is committed to N45.2.11.

8 MR. IMBRO: 2.11, right.

9 MR. SHEWMON: What you think is a nice idea may or  
10 may not cut in the water, what's in the regulations does.

11 MR. IMBRO: That's right. I think pretty much it  
12 is covered in the regulations. It's just a question of the  
13 implementation.

14 MR. SHEWMON: To bring in an irrelevant comment  
15 Machiavelli one time said: "A prince can rule by love or by  
16 fear, fear never fails."

17 MR. CARROLL: Yes, he did say that.

18 MR. WILKINS: Do you have any feel for whether the  
19 utility could write a contract with an AE that would provide  
20 for the AE to deliver this documentation, and if so, what  
21 increase in cost? I don't mean in absolute dollars, but say  
22 relatively speaking. Just give me a feel -- is it 1 percent  
23 of 10 percent, or 50 percent?

24 MR. IMBRO: I don't know. I couldn't really put a  
25 handle on it, even in percentage. Certainly, if you have

1 enough money you could buy anything.

2 MR. GRIMES: I think, in the current situation,  
3 when you have a bidding process and competition for  
4 modifications, that if you make that a condition of the  
5 contract, I think people are fairly amenable to doing that.  
6 If you go back and say I want to now buy from either the  
7 NSSS or the AE documentation that was -- that's someplace in  
8 their files, that hasn't been controlled over the last 20  
9 years and you ask them to dig it out and provide it to you  
10 with some assurance that it's -- it represents the plant,  
11 then they're going to charge you an arm and a leg for that,  
12 and some utilities are going through that process.

13 MR. IMBRO: One of the reasons we went to General  
14 Electric as a NSSS vendor -- I just kind of picked at random  
15 among the 3 was that when we had gone to the utilities, many  
16 of the utilities were really somewhat complaining that, gee,  
17 you go to the NSSS vendor and you know, it costs you an arm  
18 and a leg to get any information. They're very sensitive to  
19 the fact that -- while the NSSS pretty much had the  
20 information, they -- they -- and they would let you look at  
21 it, they wouldn't let you have it because a lot of it was  
22 proprietary.

23 MR. WILKINS: All right.

24 MR. IMBRO: Many times we went to a vendor to ask  
25 to have some information researched. It was quite costly.

1 In fact, that's why a lot of people formed owners groups to  
2 pool the utilities together so they can do it once for  
3 several plants.

4 MR. CARROLL: By hiring the NSSS vendor to do the  
5 work.

6 MR. IMBRO: You have no choice.

7 MR. CARROLL: For an arm and a leg.

8 MR. IMBRO: Right. I guess we can turn the  
9 presentation over to NUMARC.

10 MR. CARROLL: Am I going to see the words, design  
11 basis document and what we talked about yesterday?

12 MR. IMBRO: I think it's pretty much in there.

13 MR. CARROLL: I guess that was why I raised the  
14 question, because I couldn't find it in there.

15 MR. IMBRO: I believe that was something that we  
16 had even put into Tier I, system design descriptions and  
17 design criteria. I think you'll see it there.

18 MR. CARROLL: Good afternoon.

19 MR. MARION: My name is Alex Marion and I'm a  
20 Manager in the Technical Division at NUMARC. We're going to  
21 provide you with a brief overview of the design basis  
22 program guideline document that we had put together and that  
23 Gene Imbro had alluded to in his presentation.

24 Tony Pietrangelo will be giving that overview.

25 [Slide.]

1 MR. PIETRANGELO: Good after. I'm Tony  
2 Pietrangelo. I'm also in the Technical Division at NUMARC.  
3 Before I get into the presentation on the guidelines, I'd  
4 just like to say that it has been a long year and a half  
5 working on this document that we're about to publish in the  
6 next week or two.

7 We've had several meetings with the staff over the  
8 last year and a half to try to get their input into the  
9 document. I'll explain a little bit of what motivated us to  
10 start this in the first place.

11 I just wanted to say that all the meetings we've  
12 had with the staff have been very constructive and  
13 beneficial, we think, to the final product which I'm here to  
14 talk to you about today.

15 [Slide.]

16 MR. PIETRANGELO: Just as an overview of what I'd  
17 like to talk to you about; NUMARC established the design  
18 basis issues working group that I'll tell you about. We'll  
19 tell you what the working group's goals were in putting  
20 these guidelines together, and then I'll talk to you about  
21 the content of the guidelines and what we plan to do with  
22 them.

23 The working group was formed in July of last year.  
24 It consists of approximately 21 people. Our chairman was  
25 Dave Hoffman, the Vice President of Nuclear Operations at

1 Consumers Power. We had 12 utility representatives. These  
2 included vice presidents, engineering directors, program  
3 managers of DBD programs from different utilities.

4 We had a balance of all the Regions across the  
5 U.S. and also, we tried to get a mix of utilities with older  
6 vintage plants, newer plants and all NSSS vendors' plants  
7 were also represented on the working group. We also thought  
8 it was importa. to include representatives from each of the  
9 four NSSS vendors, in addition to the four architect  
10 engineers who are participants in NUMARC. We also had a  
11 representative from the Institute of Nuclear Power  
12 Operations on the working group.

13 Just a little bit about why NUMARC got involved in  
14 design basis issues and formed the working group:  
15 basically, our membership asked us to get involved. There  
16 was a lot of money being spent on design basis  
17 reconstitution programs over the last few years. I think  
18 Gene talked a little bit about that before.

19 There wasn't any consistent guidance in the  
20 industry about what an acceptable framework for a program  
21 would be, and quite frankly, there were a lot of people who  
22 already allocated extensive resources and other utilities  
23 about to lay out a lot of resources for a long term program.  
24 They wanted to have some sense of confidence about what was  
25 acceptable and what wasn't a good way to go.

1 I remember one of the remarks made by one of the  
2 executives in the Issues Management Committee at NUMARC was  
3 that we only want to do this once and we want to do it  
4 right. That was the primary motivation for NUMARC taking on  
5 design basis.

6 [Slide.]

7 MR. PIETRANGELO: The goals of the working group  
8 are as follows: these are right from the mission statement  
9 of the working group.

10 I think as Gene talked about before, there was  
11 some confusion in the industry concerning terminology,  
12 interpretation of design basis, design control,  
13 configuration management. A lot of the terms related to  
14 design bases that we thought we had to get a handle on  
15 before we could move forward with the guidelines.

16 That was the first objective that the working  
17 group tackled. Secondly, we wanted to lay out some broad  
18 objectives for design basis programs. We conducted a survey  
19 in September of last year of all the utilities with about  
20 fifty different applications that utilities had identified  
21 for the DBDs that they're producing through their programs.

22 From that survey, we were able to come up with  
23 what we called primary applications for the DBDs which  
24 formed the basis for the objectives that are noted in the  
25 document. Those objectives primarily focus on

1 modifications, 50.59 safety reviews, operability  
2 determinations, tech spec changes and FSAR updates.

3 Those five objectives are kind of the core that  
4 are represented in the guidelines that we think form a very  
5 good set from which to start with. Now, that certainly  
6 doesn't preclude utilities using the DBDs that they develop  
7 in their programs for other applications. We think those  
8 five are certainly a good place to start from.

9 The third objective was to develop design basis  
10 program guidelines and that kind of encompassed this whole  
11 set. The working group also reviewed design control and  
12 configuration management practices in the industry and that  
13 is touched on in one section of the guidelines.

14 As Gene got into before, develop positions on  
15 discrepancies, operability reportability determinations;  
16 that was identified by the working group members to us in  
17 the first meeting as a concern of utilities that had already  
18 had mature programs in place; that we needed to get a very  
19 firm process and positions down on how we wanted to handle  
20 this.

21 Lastly, we wanted to interface proactively with  
22 the staff. We felt that their input was very important and  
23 we wanted to get their assurances also that their concerns  
24 were addressed in the guidelines. I think we've done that  
25 to a large extent, and we're at the end of that process now



1 and we're moving forward.

2 [Slide.]

3 MR. PIETRANGELO: The next slide is on the intent  
4 of the guidelines. As I said before, we think that the  
5 guidelines address all the working group goals that I just  
6 laid out. In addition, it provides a level of assurance for  
7 those people who have programs in place.

8 We did a survey recently, just to take a snapshot  
9 of where utilities were with those design basis efforts. I  
10 know in conversations we've had over the last year, it was  
11 always no one knew exactly how many utilities had a program  
12 going, who were in the pilot phase, who were considering a  
13 program, who didn't want to do anything at all. The survey  
14 results showed that all utilities had at least assessed a  
15 need for a program, and that 90 percent of the stations in  
16 the country had a program completed, in progress, or in the  
17 pilot phase. So it was a very extensive voluntary effort by  
18 the utilities.

19 Those that had mature programs in place, we think  
20 the guidelines encompass a lot of the good practices that  
21 were identified by the utility members on the working group,  
22 and will give that level of assurance that we were looking  
23 for.

24 In addition, for those utilities that don't have a  
25 mature program in place at this point, we think the guidance

1 provided through the guidelines will be excellent for them  
2 in planning out their programs.

3 The guidelines are being offered to our members on  
4 a voluntary basis to use at their discretion. We did  
5 consider making the guidelines an industry initiative, and  
6 actually, we considered that twice in the last six months.

7 The working group's recommendation to NUMARC was  
8 that, because of the extensive voluntary effort, and because  
9 the programs are so tailored specifically for the individual  
10 utilities -- Gene talked a little bit about the differences  
11 in plant vintage, vendor -- a lot of utilities bought the  
12 calcs from the AEs during the turnovers; others didn't care  
13 about them at that time -- all sorts of different  
14 organizational differences that have an impact on the type  
15 of program that a utility wants to tailor -- we didn't think  
16 an initiative was appropriate, first because the resources  
17 had already been allocated by utilities, and usually an  
18 initiative is to focus those resources, and that wasn't  
19 necessary in this case.

20 Yes, sir?

21 MR. SHEWMON: Would you define your terms? It  
22 would seem to me your being here and what you have done on  
23 this is an industry initiative, but I obviously don't  
24 understand the words.

25 MR. PIETRANGELO: Okay. The industry initiative

1 that I refer to here is a board vote of the NUMARC board of  
2 directors which would require 80 percent of those directors  
3 to approve whatever the initiative encompasses, and that  
4 would be binding on all of the members, all right?

5 This was, yes, an initiative in that the working  
6 group was formed, but not a board initiative that everyone  
7 voted on.

8 MR. SHEWMON: I have heard that before. Thanks.

9 MR. PIETRANGELO: Okay.

10 [Slide.]

11 MR. PIETRANGELO: Okay. Now, on the guidelines  
12 themselves, just a brief outline of -- and I believe there  
13 is a copy available to you -- the intro, a section on  
14 definitions, the intent of DBDs. Developing DBDs is kind of  
15 a lessons learned session. A lot of this information was  
16 obtained from INFO that they compiled during their  
17 assistance visits and evaluations. It has a lot of good  
18 practices, if you will, on how to administer a DBD program  
19 and more, what pitfalls to look out for when you're putting  
20 a program together.

21 What we think is one of the key sections is  
22 addressing discrepancies. I have another slide that  
23 addresses that more specifically. Validation maintenance  
24 and control -- we felt this was important enough such that  
25 we needed another section in the guidelines. Certainly, if

1       you're going to allocate that much resources to this  
2       program, you want to make sure that you maintain a credible  
3       basis for the application of the documents.

4                A final section on integration with design control  
5       and configuration management. It's very important, we  
6       think, that utilities use the DBDs they produce in their  
7       programs in their existing design control and CM practices,  
8       and we touch on that in that one section.

9                Finally, several appendices to give a lot of  
10       examples of sources of DBD information, supporting  
11       information, applications, and also additional information  
12       to consider to be scoped into a DBD.

13               [Slide.]

14               MR. PIETRANGELO:

15               The key points, we feel, that are contained in the  
16       document, first of all is to focus the interpretation of  
17       design basis under 10CFR50.2 definition. Basically, that  
18       touches on information that identifies specific functions  
19       for a structure system or component, and also specific  
20       values or ranges of values that bound the design.

21               That's what the utility is responsible for. They  
22       have to know that information. Without compiling that  
23       information, and organizing and understanding it, you don't  
24       have a basis for any of the objectives that are laid out in  
25       the guidelines.

1 I think, as Gene touched on before, and I think  
2 Chairman Michelson also touched on in his question, you have  
3 to know the why information, also. That interpretive step  
4 is one of the things we think is a major focus of the  
5 guidelines. Getting that understanding of why the setpoint  
6 is set at 750 pounds and not at 700 pounds, that kind of  
7 information that supports the design basis is really the  
8 key. Not surprisingly, that is the information that most  
9 utilities are having trouble recollecting.

10 Ofttimes, you have to go back to the design  
11 engineers, if they are still around, and many of the  
12 utilities have compiled that information through interviews  
13 with those people, have been in correspondence and meeting  
14 minutes from meetings 20 years ago.

15 A lot of that good why information is contained in  
16 those kinds of sources, and not in a calc or some document  
17 you can really get your hands on that's in a file and filed  
18 neatly, but in an old engineer's file that he kept at his  
19 desk. A lot of the good information has been from those  
20 sources, the utilities have found.

21 Third, the other key point we wanted to make in  
22 the guidelines was that the program should enhance your  
23 existing design control and CM practices. One of the things  
24 we found, and this gets back to the terminology question, a  
25 lot of people were mixing terminology of design basis with

1 design control and configuration management.

2 The design bases and the DBDs that collate that  
3 information is something that you can get your hands around,  
4 that you can touch, you can feel, and that you can organize,  
5 whereas the design control and CM practices have been around  
6 since day one, okay? Those are existing practices at  
7 utilities. Whether you call them that or not, you've been  
8 doing that since your plant went commercial.

9 One of the things we think the programs are aimed  
10 at is enhancing the input to those processes through  
11 collating the design basis information and supporting  
12 information in DBD, and we think we'll see a big benefit in  
13 these practices.

14 [Slide.]

15 MR. PIETRANGELO: The other key area was on  
16 addressing discrepancies, and I don't want to focus too much  
17 on what Gene has mentioned previously, but the focus of the  
18 section that we have in the guidelines is on a managed  
19 approach.

20 Several utilities had gone through kind of a  
21 crisis atmosphere in trying to address discrepancies that  
22 came out of their reviews during their design basis efforts.  
23 We feel that that managed approach -- and I'll show you a  
24 slide in a minute that lays out the process of what we think  
25 the managed approach is all about -- entails.

1           The presumption of operability is essentially the  
2 same thing as Gene talked about and the premise of  
3 operability. If you have broad engineering experience and  
4 judgment and other sources of information that give you a  
5 good feeling about the operability of a structure system or  
6 component, just because you don't have a piece of paper such  
7 as a calc or evaluation gives you that airtight, yes, this  
8 is operable determination, doesn't mean that you shut down  
9 the plant and wait 'til you get the information. We think  
10 you can rely on that broad engineering experience and  
11 judgment in those types of cases.

12           Also, this section contains a subsection on  
13 simplifying reportability determinations in the LER process.  
14 I think Gene touched on that already.

15           And we did propose a modification policy change --  
16 modification to enforcement policy. Originally, that was  
17 part of the guidelines. We ended up taking that out and  
18 sending a separate letter to the staff requesting  
19 consideration for that change. And, essentially, it was  
20 trying to remove it.

21           Well, we thought it was disincentive that if a  
22 utility, through a self-initiated effort, uncovers a  
23 discrepancy from possibly several years ago, takes  
24 appropriate corrective action and satisfies all the criteria  
25 in the exercise of discretion policy that's laid out now.

1 We didn't think it was appropriate to nail the utility also  
2 with a notice of violation in those cases.

3 So, basically, what our request does is expands  
4 the scope of the exercise of discretion.

5 [Slide.]

6 Finally, I just want to talk a little bit about  
7 this process for managing discrepancies.

8 The first box is the discrepancy determination.  
9 And, basically, this is kind of a prescreen such that we  
10 wanted to draw a distinction between open items and  
11 discrepancies. There are many questions raised during the  
12 course of a design basis program that come up. And we don't  
13 suggest that all of those questions get run through this  
14 process.

15 What we think, though, is that when there is a  
16 confirmed discrepancy that has a potential for impacting  
17 plant operation that it be elevated into this process. At  
18 that point, we have a screen called safety concern where  
19 three basic questions are asked to determine whether you  
20 ought to proceed with formal operability and reportability  
21 evaluations.

22 Following that, a decision block as to if you do  
23 have something that is an operability issue you would take  
24 the appropriate tech spec action. If not, you would  
25 complete the system DBD.



1           Same with reportability. And then if you did have  
2 a reportable issue you'd file your IER and complete the  
3 activity. If not, you'd just go right on to the complete  
4 activity block.

5           What that block does is allows that process of  
6 collating the information, and for most utilities this is a  
7 three or four month process where they'll get together with  
8 their NSSS vendor and AE, go back through all the old files,  
9 do their interviews, get all that information together. In  
10 that process is where some of these discrepancies come up.

11           What we do here in this block is allow them to  
12 complete that activity and get what they think is that whole  
13 set of information on the system that they originally  
14 sought, then go to a final evaluation block where all that  
15 information is reviewed.

16           Any operability issues, reportability issues are  
17 also reviewed cumulatively so that any synergistic effects  
18 in the system are looked at in a comprehensive fashion.  
19 Then you would proceed to the closeout of whatever the  
20 discrepancy.

21           We think this process is good in that it shows a  
22 structure for addressing these problems as they come up, and  
23 if they are significant safety concerns then they're  
24 evaluated by the appropriate people in an appropriate time  
25 frame.

1           And we think this process is terrific for these  
2 programs. And I think it's pretty much what people are  
3 already following in their day to day plant operations also.

4           That's all I have to say today.

5           MR. CARROLI: Can we go off the record for just a  
6 second?

7           MR. PIETRANGELO: Sure.

8           [Brief recess.]

9           MR. CARROLL: Back on the record.

10          MR. SHEWMON: What is the definition of a  
11 discrepancy on your last slide -- design basis discrepancy.  
12 This is --

13          MR. PIETRANGELO: A discrepancy is an item that  
14 has been confirmed discrepant in that you have done some  
15 evaluation of it already. Let's say two documents don't  
16 match or give the same value for a particular parameter.

17          MR. WILKINS: It might be helpful if you could  
18 give us an example of a discrepant.

19          MR. PIETRANGELO: Well, let's say you're  
20 researching to do your DBD and on two source documents two  
21 different values are given, okay, for the same parameter.  
22 Okay? That would be a discrepancy. Now is it safety  
23 significant? Well, if one of the discrepancies, let's say,  
24 was above a tech spec value, then I'd say, yeah, that's  
25 potentially safety significant and you would elevate it into

1 that process.

2 But if there was a mismatch in the values but they  
3 were both within, let's say, some tech spec value, then I  
4 wouldn't consider that safety significant and wouldn't  
5 evaluate it into that process.

6 It could be mismatches with hardware and software  
7 also that you'd find when you were doing the validation of  
8 the DBD in the field later.

9 So it could be from a number of different sources,  
10 actually.

11 MR. CARROLL: Looking at your definitions, it  
12 looks like you've gotten a little circular here. Under open  
13 items you're saying that there are things that are potential  
14 discrepancies. And under discrepancies you're saying, those  
15 open items are confirmed discrepant.

16 MR. PIETRANGELO: Yeah. And what that is is I  
17 think open items is very broad. One working group member  
18 defined it as anything not closed. Okay? So any question  
19 that any engineer had could be an open item that someone  
20 would want to document, but you would not necessarily want  
21 to elevate it such that you're doing formal operability and  
22 reportability evaluations on it.

23 MR. CARROLL: When you see one you know it.

24 MR. PIETRANGELO: Exactly. And that's been  
25 people's experience.

1 MR. CARROLL: Any questions?

2 [No response.]

3 MR. PIETRANGELO: Thank you.

4 MR. MARION: This is Alex Marion again. I would  
5 just like to indicate that we are moving forward with  
6 holding two industry workshops on the guideline and we've  
7 invited the NRC to participate in those workshops and they  
8 have graciously accepted our invitation. We're planning to  
9 conduct them the last week of November and the first week of  
10 December.

11 We expect our activities to be reasonably  
12 completed after the December workshop.

13 MR. WILKINS: Where?

14 MR. MARION: Baltimore in November, and New  
15 Orleans, for some reason or other, in December. We felt we  
16 ought to get a couple of bennies out of the effort, to be  
17 honest with you.

18 MR. CARROLL: Does the staff have anything they  
19 want to say in closing?

20 MR. GRIMES: No. I think it's been a useful  
21 effort. At lot of times on these difficult questions, the  
22 process is most of the benefit and I think both the staff  
23 and the industry have learned a lot just by the process of  
24 struggling with the questions over the last couple of years.

25 MR. CARROLL: For the full committee on Thursday

1 morning, 10:45 to 11:15, a half hour, I guess the plan is --  
2 oh, no, that's Level of Detail.

3 Sorry, it's 45 minutes, 3:30 to 4:15 on Friday. I  
4 guess I'm one of three subcommittee chairmen to report. Do  
5 you feel that we need either the staff or NUMARC, or should  
6 I just make a brief report on what we heard about?

7 MR. WILKINS: I think you can say that the NUMARC  
8 document is about to hit the street.

9 MR. GRIMES: The staff sees no reason to make a  
10 presentation to the full committee. I think you can  
11 characterize it well.

12 MR. CARROLL: You just don't like to expose  
13 yourself, right?

14 MR. GRIMES: They told me ROTC to not buzz  
15 anyplace and don't buzz anyplace twice.

16 [Laughter.]

17 MR. CARROLL: Okay, we'll handle it that way. I'd  
18 like to thank the staff of NUMARC for their informative  
19 presentations. With that, we shall adjourn.

20 [Whereupon, at 2:30 p.m., the Subcommittee was  
21 adjourned.]

22

23

24

25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission


in the matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Plant Operation

DOCKET NUMBER:

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Bethesda, Maryland

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Official Reporter  
Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.

ACRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PLANT OPERATIONS  
NOVEMBER 1, 1990

NUMARC  
DESIGN BASIS  
PROGRAM GUIDELINES

TONY PIETRANGELO  
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER  
NUMARC, TECHNICAL DIVISION

## OVERVIEW

- o NUMARC DBI WORKING GROUP
  
- o DBI WORKING GROUP GOALS
  
- o DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM GUIDELINES



NUMARC DESIGN BASIS ISSUES  
WORKING GROUP

CHAIRMAN: DAVID HOFFMAN  
VP, NUCLEAR OPERATIONS  
CONSUMERS POWER

12 UTILITIES REPRESENTING ALL NRC REGIONS

4 NSSS VENDORS: WESTINGHOUSE  
BABCOCK & WILCOX  
GENERAL ELECTRIC  
COMBUSTION ENGINEERING

4 A/Es: BECHTEL  
FLUOP-DANIEL  
UNITED ENGINEERS  
STONE & WEBSTER

INPO

## DBI WORKING GROUP GOALS

- 0 DEVELOP CLEAR TERMINOLOGY
- 0 IDENTIFY OBJECTIVES FOR DB PROGRAMS
- 0 DEVELOP DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM GUIDELINES
- 0 REVIEW DESIGN CONTROL AND CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- 0 DEVELOP POSITIONS ON DISCREPANCY DISPOSITION, OPERABILITY AND REPORTABILITY DETERMINATIONS
- 0 INTERFACE PROACTIVELY WITH NRC TO ADDRESS INDUSTRY AND REGULATORY CONCERNS

## DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### INTENT

- 0 ADDRESS ALL WORKING GROUP GOALS
- 0 PROVIDE LEVEL OF ASSURANCE FOR EXISTING PROGRAMS
- 0 PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THOSE CONSIDERING PROGRAMS
- 0 FOR UTILITY USE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS
- 0 NOT AN INDUSTRY INITIATIVE

# DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

## OUTLINE

- 0 INTRODUCTION
- 0 DEFINITIONS
- 0 INTENT OF DBDs
- 0 DEVELOPING DBDs
- 0 ADDRESSING DISCREPANCIES
- 0 VALIDATION, MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL
- 0 INTEGRATION WITH DESIGN CONTROL AND CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT
- 0 APPENDICES

# DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

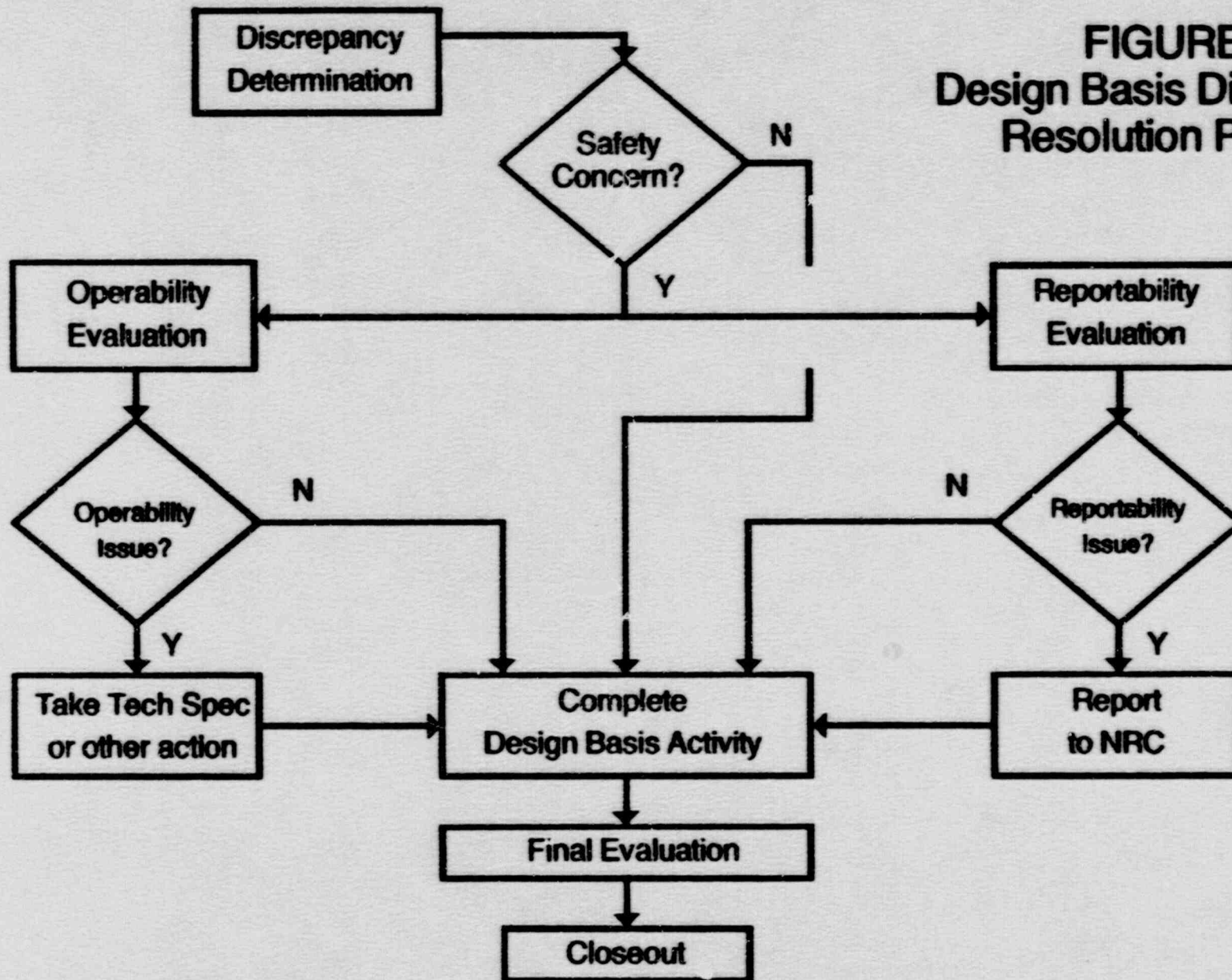
## KEY POINTS

- 0 FOCUS INTERPRETATION OF "DESIGN BASES" PER 10CFR50.2 DEFINITION:
  - SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS
  - SPECIFIC VALUES THAT BOUND DESIGN
  
- 0 CAPTURE "WHY" INFORMATION THAT SUPPORTS DESIGN BASES AND UTILITY SPECIFIC PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
  
- 0 DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM SHOULD ENHANCE EXISTING DESIGN CONTROL AND CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

# DESIGN BASIS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

## ADDRESSING DISCREPANCIES

- 0 MANAGED APPROACH
- 0 PRESUMPTION OF OPERABILITY
- 0 SIMPLIFY REPORTABILITY DETERMINATIONS AND LER PROCESS
- 0 PROPOSE MODIFICATION TO NRC ENFORCEMENT POLICY



**FIGURE 2**  
**Design Basis Discrepancy**  
**Resolution Process**

RECONSTITUTION OF DESIGN BASES  
AND DESIGN DOCUMENTS

BY

EUGENE V. IMBRO  
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION



- NRC TEAM INSPECTIONS (SSFI, SSOMI) HAVE IDENTIFIED THAT:
  - (1) MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT SUFFICIENT ENGINEERING BASIS THAT HAVE COMPROMISED SAFETY SYSTEM FUNCTIONALITY.
  - (2) MISSING OR UNRETRIEVABLE DESIGN DOCUMENTATION APPEARS TO BE A ROOT CAUSE OF THESE PROBLEMS
  
- AS A RESULT MANY UTILITIES HAVE BEGUN DESIGN BASES RECONSTITUTION PROGRAMS

WHAT ARE DESIGN DOCUMENTS?

DESIGN DOCUMENTS ARE THOSE DOCUMENTS TO WHICH ONE CAN REFER TO VERIFY THAT STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS, AND COMPONENTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PERFORM THEIR IDENTIFIED FUNCTION WITHIN THE REFERENCE BOUNDS OF THE CONTROLLING PARAMETERS.

## CATEGORIES OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS

### DESIGN INPUT DOCUMENTS

- NRC REGULATIONS
- STD. REVIEW PLAN
- REG. GUIDES
- INDUSTRY STD's.
- DESIGN PROCEDURES  
(A/E - NSSS SUPPLIER, ETC.)
- VENDOR PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS
- ETC.

### DESIGN ANALYSES

- CALCULATIONS
- EVALUATIONS
- TRADE-OFF/OPTIMIZATION
- STUDIES
- ETC.

### DESIGN OUTPUT DOCUMENTS

- DRAWINGS
- PURCHASE SPECS
- "Q" LIST
- DESIGN INTERFACE  
DOCUMENTS
- SETPOINT LIST
- VALVE LIST
- ETC.

THE REGULATORY DESIGN BASIS IS A SUBSET OF THE ENGINEERING DESIGN BASIS

REGULATORY DESIGN BASIS (10 CFR 50.2)

- o NRC REGULATIONS
- o TECH SPECS
- o SER
  
- o LICENSEE COMMITMENTS
  - FSAR
  - LERs
  - CORRESPONDENCE

ENGINEERING DESIGN BASIS

- o REGULATORY DESIGN BASIS
- o NON SAFETY-RELATED CRITERIA FOR STRUCTURES SYSTEMS, & COMPONENTS PERFORMANCE
  
- o DOCUMENTED "GOOD ENGINEERING PRACTICE"
  - NEMA STDs
  - TEMA STDs
  - ISA STDs
  - ASHRAE STDs
  - HYDRAULIC INSTITUTE STDs
  - A/E - NSSS SUPPLIER DESIGN PROCEDURES
  - ETC.

WHY ARE DESIGN DOCUMENTS NECESSARY?

- FORM THE BASIS FOR FUTURE PLANT MODIFICATIONS
- QUANTIFY DESIGN MARGINS AND DEFINE OPERATING ENVELOPE
  - BASIS FOR 50.59 EVALUATIONS
- FORM A LIVING RECORD OF THE AS-CONFIGURED PLANT
- PROVIDE A TECHNICAL BASIS FOR CONTINUED OPERATION (INCLUDING LIFE EXTENSION)

STAFF ACTIONS

- o PERFORM LIMITED INDUSTRY SURVEY BY VISITING 6 LICENSEES AND 1 NSSS VENDOR
- o COLLECT INFORMATION
  - DESIGN DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY
  - CHANGE CONTROL PROCESS
  - INTERFACE BETWEEN ENGINEERING, MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONS,  
TRAINING AND LICENSING
  - UTILITY-INITIATED DESIGN BASIS DOCUMENT  
RECONSTITUTION PROGRAMS

STAFF ACTIONS (CON'T)

o ISSUE NUREG TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GOOD PRACTICE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- TYPES OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS THAT SHOULD BE CONTROLLED AND MAINTAINED AS-FIGURED
- THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIMEFRAME THAT DESIGN DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE RECREATED, IF AT ALL
- EVALUATION OF STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF UTILITY-INITIATED DESIGN BASIS DOCUMENT RECONSTITUTION PROGRAMS
- CURRENT PRACTICES IN DESIGN CONTROL/CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT

LICENSEES SURVEYED

0	CAROLINA POWER AND LIGHT	-	H.B. ROBINSON - 2
0	PENNSYLVANIA POWER AND LIGHT	-	SUSQUEHANNA
0	PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC	-	DIABLO CANYON
0	OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT	-	FT. CALHOUN
0	FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION	-	CRYSTAL RIVER 3
0	FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT	-	TURKEY POINT 3 AND 4

NSSS VENDORS SURVEYED

0 GENERAL ELECTRIC



LEVEL OF DESIGN DOCUMENTATION

- o ESSENTIAL DESIGN DOCUMENTS
- o SUFFICIENT DESIGN DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE PLANT MODIFICATIONS TO SUPPORT THE FINAL AS-CONFIGURED DESIGN OF THE SYSTEM BEING MODIFIED
- o THIS MAY REQUIRE THE REGENERATION OF MISSING DOCUMENTATION

### DESIGN AUTHORITY

AFTER THE O/L, THE OPERATING ORGANIZATION GENERALLY DRIVES MODIFICATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, HOWEVER, THE ENGINEERING ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- ° MAINTAINING THE PLANT DESIGN BASES
- ° ASSURING DESIGN OUTPUT DOCUMENTS REFLECT THE CURRENT DESIGN BASES
- ° ASSURING DESIGN OUTPUT REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED MODIFICATIONS ARE COORDINATED WITH THE PLANT STAFF.

## SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

- o DESIGN DOCUMENT RECONSTITUTION PROGRAMS
  - ALL UTILITIES SHOULD EVALUATE THE NEED TO INITIATE A DESIGN DOCUMENT RECONSTITUTION PROGRAM. (DDR)
  - NEED FOR DDR PROGRAM PROPORTIONAL TO FACILITY AGE
  - A DESIGN DOCUMENT RECONSTITUTION PROGRAM SHOULD MEET UNIQUE UTILITY NEEDS
  - NEED FOR UTILITY STAFF INVOLVEMENT IN DDR PROGRAMS
  - NEED FOR STRONGER IN-HOUSE ENGINEERING CAPABILITIES
  - DESIGN BASIS DOCUMENTS (DBDs) SHOULD BE CONTROLLED DOCUMENTS AND MAINTAINED AS-BUILT
  - DBDs PROVIDE A CENTRALIZED LOCATION FOR DESIGN INFORMATION

SURVEY OBSERVATIONS (CON'T)

- o NEED FOR TEMPLATE APPROACH
- o RECONSTITUTION OF DESIGN BASES ALONE MAY BE INSUFFICIENT. CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO REGENERATION OF SUPPORTING CALCULATIONS
- o NEED FOR A DEFINED PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY TO REGENERATE MISSING DESIGN DOCUMENTS
- o CONCEPT OF ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS IS NECESSARY TO REQUIRE REGENERATION OF DESIGN SUPPORTING OPERATIONAL LIMITS
- o NEED FOR FIELD VALIDATION OF DESIGN BASES DOCUMENTS
- o NEED FOR TECHNICAL REVIEWS OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS

OPERABILITY, REPORTABILITY, ENFORCEMENT

- o OPERABILITY DETERMINATIONS
  - NEED TO MAKE OPERABILITY DECISIONS IN A TIME FRAME COMMENSURATE WITH SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE
  - PREMISE OF OPERABILITY
  - CONTINUOUS DECISION PROCESS
  
- o REPORTABILITY
  - NO CHANGE IN NRC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
  - PREPARATION OF FINAL EVALUATION OF LERs FOR EACH SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
  
- o ENFORCEMENT POLICY
  - ENCOURAGES UTILITY-INITIATED PROGRAMS