



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

February 25, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

THRU: James W. Johnson, Acting Chief
Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

FROM: Robert L. Palla, Jr.
Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 3, 1994 MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH NUMARC
REGARDING ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

On February 3, 1994, the NRC staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) and the Westinghouse and BWR owners groups. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the dispositioning of NRC comments on the PWR owners group SAMG documents, and NRC feedback on the proposed industry initiative on accident management. Due to schedule conflicts, this was a working level rather than a management level meeting as originally intended. A list of attendees is presented in Enclosure 1. No meeting handouts were distributed.

Meeting discussions centered on the industry initiative on accident management described in a November 2, 1993 NUMARC letter, and on the planned NRC staff response to each of the items raised in the letter. The staff indicated that a formal NRC response to the NUMARC letter had been drafted but was still under internal review. Hence, the staff comments were characterized as preliminary. The following major points expressed in the draft letter were described and discussed during the meeting:

- It is NRR's view that a binding industry initiative on accident management can achieve the same objectives as an NRC generic letter.
- Overall, the staff finds the descriptions of the program scope, the closure process, and the attributes corresponding to each of the implementing elements to be consistent with views expressed in SECY-89-012 and elsewhere. However, the staff has identified a number of areas in which the industry position should be expanded to provide additional clarification and guidance to utilities. These will be provided in an enclosure to the staff's letter, for NUMARC's consideration. Each of the comments was described and discussed with NUMARC.
- The staff agrees in concept with the two severe accident related methodologies proposed by the BWROG, and with INPO's efforts to develop severe accident training materials. We will work with industry on

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implementation details and on dealing with the plant-to-plant variability that can result through application of the methodologies.

- The role of NRC in utility accident management drills has not yet been decided, in part, because the industry guidance in this area is still lacking and the nature of these drills is not yet clear. The staff's intent is to rely on utility self-evaluation using typical EP-type critique practices, rather than to conduct routine staff audits/inspections of accident management capabilities.
- The staff has further evaluated the comments on the PWR SAMG documents, as presented during the December 8 meeting, to determine whether any of the comments bear on or should be further addressed in the formal industry position on accident management. Three items that are programmatic in nature were identified: (1) a lack of guidance on translating Candidate High Level Actions (CHLAs) into implementing procedures, (2) a lack of guidance regarding SAMG verification and validation activities that should be performed by utilities to ensure that the guidelines and EOPs work together to provide the desired accident management capabilities, and (3) the need to assure continued owners group/NUMARC support to the utilities during the SAMG implementation phase. The need for providing further guidance in these areas, possibly as part of the industry initiative, was discussed.
- The staff/contractor comments on the PWR SAMG documents will be provided as an enclosure to the letter, for NUMARC's consideration.

The staff agreed to expedite the formal response to the proposed industry initiative, in order to provide the NUMARC Board of Directors time to consider its contents prior to the planned March 2 vote on the initiative.

Robert L. Palla, Jr.

Robert L. Palla, Jr.
Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

Enclosures:
As stated

NRC/NUMARC MEETING ON ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT

FEB 3, 1994

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FRED EMERSON	CPH/BWROG	(919) 546-7573
Cecil Thomas	NRC/DRCH	504-2548
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MALYLEE SHOSSON	NRC/DRCH/HHFB	504-2160
RON FRAHM	NRC/DSSA/SRXB	504-2866
Jack Rosenthal	NRC/AEOD/ROAB	492-4440
Jim O'Brien	NRC/DSS/PEPB	504-2919
David Desautniers	NRC/NRR/DRCH/HHFB	504-1043
Warren Swenson	NRC/NRR/DRCH/HHFB	504-1014
MARTY VIRGILIO	NRC/DSSA	504-3226

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JKudrick, 8 D 1	RErickson, 9 H 19
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WPasedag, DOE	

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Original signed by:
Robert L. Palla, Jr.
Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

Enclosures:
As stated

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NAME	RPalla:bw <i>RLP</i>	AE1-Bassioni <i>AE1B</i>	JJohnson <i>JJ</i>	
DATE	02/24/94	02/24/94	02/24/94	