



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

MAY 16 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks, Acting Executive
Director for Operations

FROM: Carl Michelson, Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation of
Operational Data

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE INSTITUTE
OF NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONS (INPO) AND THE NUCLEAR
SAFETY ANALYSIS CENTER (NSAC)

Last Thursday, May 8, 1980, I met with Dr. Ed Zebroski, Director, Nuclear Safety Analysis Center (NSAC) to discuss areas for possible cooperation between NSAC, INPO, and the NRC in the collection, analysis, and feedback of reactor operational experience. As a basis for discussion, we prepared a preliminary draft of a memorandum of understanding which covered a number of topics of potential mutual interest. This draft is enclosed for your information and consideration.

This meeting was the latest in a series of such discussions and was the outgrowth of discussions with Dr. Zebroski on March 26, 1980. In March, agreement was reached that there was sufficient mutual interest for cooperation to warrant more specific discussions.

While the enclosed draft was favorably received, a number of reviews and actions will be initiated by NSAC, as follows, over the next several weeks:

- Copies will be provided for comment to the principal NSAC utility oversight committee (comments to be forwarded to us by the end of May 1980).
- Copies will be provided to INPO and discussed with Mr. Wilkinson on May 20, 1980 (comments to be forwarded to us by May 22, 1980).
- A proposed draft will be submitted for approval by NSAC and INPO on June 23, 1980.

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The completion of these reviews will provide the first valid indication whether a formal and meaningful agreement with IMPO and NSAC on reactor operational data activities is a realistic objective. Current planning is that the draft agreement will be finalized and signed by IMPO (Wilkinson); NSAC (Zebroski); and NRC (Michelson) by the end of June 1980.

I will keep you advised as this activity proceeds. Please let me know if I can provide clarification or any additional information.

/s/

Carl Michelson, Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

Enclosure:
Preliminary Draft

cc w/enclosure:

R. Bernero
H. Haller
R. Mattson
K. Haseley
H. Shaper
J. Lafleur

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CJHeltemes, AEOD
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SURNAME	CJHeltemes:gt	CMichelson			
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This memorandum between the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), the Nuclear Safety Analysis Center (NSAC), and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reflects the desire for a continuing and cooperative relationship in the collection, evaluation, and feedback of operational experience information and data for nuclear power plants. Mutual supportive activities, as defined below, will help assure that the goals and programs of INPO, NSAC, and the NRC will be carried out in the most efficient and effective manner without diminishing or interfering with the responsibilities or authorities of any party.

1. Collection of Operational Data

Since (a) it is a common objective that reporting of information and data be efficient and duplicative reporting be eliminated; (b) the validity of analysis results may depend upon the completeness of input information; and (c) the effectiveness of operational data feedback is dependent upon a proper understanding of the implications inherent in reactor operating experience, INPO, NSAC, and the NRC will endeavor to develop, maintain, and use a common base of information and data related to reactor operating experience. In this regard, NRC will consult with INPO and NSAC prior to requesting significant revisions in the Licensee Event Report (LER) system and in the Nuclear Power Reliability Data System (NPRDS) in order to assure that their recommendations and needs are fully factored in the NRC requested changes.

Further, INPO, NSAC, and the NRC agree to consult with each other with regard to the availability of information which would be useful in ongoing analysis and evaluation activities; and to promote and encourage a free flow of technical information.

2. Computerized Data Storage and retrieval

In order to improve the overall operational data base in terms of completeness, accuracy, and ability to search and recall specific information, the NRC will consult with INPO and NSAC as it proceeds towards consolidation and improvement of NRC supported operational data bases.

It is intended to achieve a common data base of information that describes operational events which will meet the needs of INPO, NSAC, and the NRC and to assure that the program support and flow of information are adequate to assure its overall usefulness. INPO and NSAC agree to support the development of such a common data base through the input of information and to provide comments and recommendations for its improvement.

3. Foreign Information

Information and data obtained by the NRC from foreign sources, which does not include restrictions on further distribution, will be entered into a computerized data bank in a similar manner as domestic information; and will be readily available for INPO and NSAC analysis activities. Foreign information and data obtained by INPO and NSAC without restrictions will similarly be entered into the same computerized data base for ready access by NRC.

Since it is important to assure the integrity of negotiated agreements and the continued availability of foreign information provided in confidence, the NRC will act promptly to honor INPO and NSAC requests for foreign information received in confidence upon approval of the specific need and a formal agreement of confidentiality. In a similar manner, INPO and NSAC will assure that NRC has access to privileged foreign information that may be available to them which is of potential significance to domestic reactors. Such an exchange of information would also be under a formal agreement of confidentiality.

4. Program Plan

INPO, NSAC, and the NRC will meet semiannually to discuss the major analysis and evaluation activities underway and planned. The objectives of such coordination meetings are to provide up-to-date information on each organization's overall plans for the evaluation, analysis, and feedback of operational data, and the allocation of resources. This activity is an effort to avoid unnecessary and unintentional duplication of activities, while providing a means to identify those study areas where independent activities by another organization may be warranted. These coordination meetings are information exchange forums only. Formal requests or agreements on actions or revisions to programs are outside the scope of these meetings.

In addition to meetings, it is expected that frequent informal communications will exist among the parties with regard to the nature and scope of studies in progress or planned.

5. Exchange of Analysis and Evaluation Results

The results of completed and formally documented analysis and evaluation of operational data, together with the conclusions and recommendations where applicable, will be regularly exchanged between the parties on a timely basis. In addition, informal technical discussions on studies in progress which are of mutual interest may be appropriate as determined on a case-by-case basis by the organization conducting the study.

6. Feedback and Requests for Corrective Action

In order to assure complimentary and compatible requests for action as a result of operational data analysis activities, and thereby minimize the impact upon reactor operators, copies of written information notices, directives, or recommendations from the parties to operators (licensees) of power reactor facilities will be provided by each party to the others. These documents will be provided to the parties, for information purposes only, at the time of their issuance to licensees.