

August 17, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: John W. Craig  
Assistant for Operations  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Ashok C. Thadani, Director /RA/  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: STAFF COMMENTS ON JUNE 2000 DRAFT ASME STANDARD ON  
PRA QUALITY

The subject standard was provided to the Commission for their information on June 30, 2000. We have now completed our review, and provided our (RES and NRR) comments to ASME in the attached letter from Tom King. Since these comments are rather negative, and will be controversial, we believe that they should be provided to the Commission as soon as possible.

Briefly, the attached letter provides our conclusions that the current version of the standard:

- is not a standard that addresses PRA quality,
- is difficult to use in determining where there are weaknesses and strengths in the PRA results and therefore will have limited use in the decision-making process,
- will only provide limited assistance to the staff in performing a more focused review of licensee PRA submittals, and
- will provide minimal assistance in making more efficient use of NRC resources.

We are currently developing a plan for how to most efficiently and effectively proceed to resolve the staff's comments. We will provide our plans in this regard to the Commission by the end of August.

Attachment as stated

cc: W. Travers  
C. Paperiello  
F. Miraglia  
S. Collins  
J. Larkins

Distribution: DRAA Chron M. Cunningham T. King A. Thadani

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