

March 8, 2001

Dr. George E. Apostolakis
Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: DRAFT ANS EXTERNAL EVENTS PRA METHODOLOGY STANDARD

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

The staff appreciates the time and efforts the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards spent on reviewing and meeting with representatives of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) External Events Working Group to discuss draft BSR/ANS-58.21, "External Events PRA Methodology Standard." The Committee's comments and recommendations in its February 9, 2001, letter will help both the NRC staff and the ANS Working Group. The staff will benefit from your comments during its review of the draft, and the Working Group will benefit during its development of the final version.

As you know, the establishment of a PRA standard is an essential and critical element in the agency's initiative to implement the risk-informed regulatory approaches. The ACRS independent reviews and comments are critical in establishing quality standards for use by all stakeholders. We look forward to your review and comments on the final version of this standard.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY

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