

PROPOSED INDUSTRY METHOD FOR ADDRESSING
NFPA 805, CHAPTER 3 LICENSING BASIS ISSUES
November 5, 2003

STAFF STATEMENT

The Staff considers all items in NFPA 805 chapter 3 to be either fundamental elements or minimum design criteria. The staff believes that NFPA 804 recognizes just two top level approaches; namely compliance with either the deterministic criteria or the performance-based (PB) approach. Even though NFPA 805 distinguishes between PB and risk-informed (RI) methods, the RI approach is a tool used to support the PB approach and is not a stand-alone alternative to the deterministic or PB alternative approaches.

NFPA 805 Chapter 3 states, “The fire protection program elements and minimum design requirements shall not be subject to the performance based methods permitted elsewhere in this standard.”

The current version of the draft Rule published on the on the NRC website as of October 16, 2003 Section (2), *Exceptions, modifications and supplementation of NFPA 805*, identifies specific exceptions to NFPA 805. Section (2) (v) *Performance Based Methods*. states, “Notwithstanding the prohibition in NFPA 805 Section 3.1 against the use of performance based methods, the fire protection program elements and minimum design requirements of Chapter 3 may be subject to the performance based methods permitted elsewhere in the standard.”

IMPLEMENTING GUIDANCE ISSUE RESOLUTION STRATEGY

The NRC statement and excerpt of the draft Rule are interpreted to permit the use of RI/PB methods for resolution of fire protection issues identified in Chapter 3.

Based on this understanding the industry-recommended process for resolving Chapter 3 issues is as follows:

1. A Chapter 3 spreadsheet has been developed. For each section and subsection of Chapter 3, provide a reference to the station-specific controlled document (i.e. Design Basis Document) section that contains the licensing basis information for the specific issue.
2. If the licensing basis for the issue is clear and/or the issue complies with the Chapter 3 prescriptive requirement, no additional evaluation is required.
3. If there is any issue for which the licensing basis is silent or is not clearly documented, with a sound technical basis (see the implementing guidance section concerning the quality of GL 86-10 evaluations) in the licensee’s engineering

analysis, the issue will be evaluated in the RI/PB context of Chapter 2 (Figure 2.4) to satisfy the nuclear safety criteria as stated in Chapter 1. This review needs to be documented in an engineering design document.

4. The engineering analysis that documents the licensing basis position (discussed in #3 above) should be prepared, reviewed and approved in accordance with the licensee's procedure for design basis calculations and referenced in the Chapter 3 spreadsheet (Appendix B-1).
5. The Transition Report will include the Chapter 3 spreadsheet and the Chapter 4 safe shutdown spreadsheet (Appendix B-2).
6. The Transition Report will be submitted as a component of the License Amendment Submittal. This will provide the NRC staff reviewer an opportunity to review the Chapter 3 licensing basis issues that have been established by RI/PB evaluations.
7. The engineering analysis will be maintained as a controlled document that is available for reviewer and inspector evaluation.