

July 27, 2006

Dr. Iván Lux  
Deputy Director General  
Nuclear Safety Directorate  
Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority  
1539 Budapest, P.O. Box 676  
Budapest, Hungary, H-1036

Dear Dr. Lux:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC) has decided to discontinue, as of September 30, 2006, the activities associated with the International Cooperative Probabilistic Risk Assessment (COOPRA) Research Program. This includes all activities associated with the COOPRA Steering Committee, Working Groups, and Web site. Nonetheless, the existing Implementing Agreement between the U.S. NRC and the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) regarding collaboration in the area of probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) research remains in effect and unchanged.

Staff representatives of the U.S. NRC discussed the future of the COOPRA Research Program with the COOPRA partners at the last Steering Committee meeting on October 27–28, 2005. Our principal concern with the program was that differences between activities carried out by COOPRA and the Working Group on Risk Assessment (WGRisk) of the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations (CSNI) have narrowed, resulting in overlapping responsibilities and duplication of effort. In recent years, the benefits of the COOPRA Research Program have diminished as a result of declining COOPRA membership and limited resources available from partner organizations to support the program's activities. Consequently, the U.S. NRC evaluated options for the future of COOPRA, including discontinuing the program.

COOPRA has the following three Working Groups:

- Fire-Induced Damage to Electrical Cables and Circuits (FIDECC)
- Risk-Informed Decision-Making (RiDeM)
- Low-Power and Shutdown (LPSD)

The FIDECC Working Group has not been active lately and currently has no chairperson. The RiDeM Working Group holds annual meetings, at which participants exchange information on research results. The LPSD Working Group has three ongoing activities under COOPRA, and the U.S. NRC has been interacting with WGRisk to have those activities transferred to that organization.

Following the last Steering Committee meeting, the U.S. NRC requested the partners' input and recommendations on the future of COOPRA. After assessing the input, we have decided to discontinue the COOPRA program. Nonetheless, I want to emphasize that the U.S. NRC will maintain our ongoing bilateral agreement for the exchange of PRA-related information with the HAEA. Any future cooperative work in the PRA area will be accomplished through that bilateral agreement and through the WGRisk organization.

Over the years, the COOPRA Research Program has achieved its purpose and established a very effective organization serving participants in PRA international cooperation. I would like to thank the HAEA for the participation and contributions it has provided to COOPRA. It has been a pleasure working with you and your organization, and I look forward to continued cooperation through our existing bilateral agreement and through the WGRisk organization.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Dr. Asimios Malliakos of my staff at (301) 415-6458 or via email to [ACM1@nrc.gov](mailto:ACM1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/** Brian W. Sheron

Brian W. Sheron, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Following the last Steering Committee meeting, the U.S. NRC requested the partners' input and recommendations on the future of COOPRA. After assessing the input, we have decided to discontinue the COOPRA program. Nonetheless, I want to emphasize that the U.S. NRC will maintain our ongoing bilateral agreement for the exchange of PRA-related information with the HAEA. Any future cooperative work in the PRA area will be accomplished through that bilateral agreement and through the WGRisk organization.

Over the years, the COOPRA Research Program has achieved its purpose and established a very effective organization serving participants in PRA international cooperation. I would like to thank the HAEA for the participation and contributions it has provided to COOPRA. It has been a pleasure working with you and your organization, and I look forward to continued cooperation through our existing bilateral agreement and through the WGRisk organization.

If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact Dr. Asimios Malliakos of my staff at (301) 415-6458 or via email to [ACM1@nrc.gov](mailto:ACM1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/ Brian W. Sheron

Brian W. Sheron, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Distribution:  
PRA R/F

E:\Filenet\ML061880334.wpd

OAR in ADAMS? (Y or N) Y

ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML061880334

TEMPLATE NO. RES-006

Publicly Available? (Y or N) Y

DATE OF RELEASE TO PUBLIC

SENSITIVE? N

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures "N" = No copy

OFFICE	PRA		PRA		C:PRA		D:DSARE		Tech Editor		D:RES	
NAME	AMalliakos		RJenkins w/comment		JMonninger		FEltawila		PGarrity		BSheron	
DATE	05/29/06		05/31/06		07/06/06		07/11/06		07/14/06		07/27/06	