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JUL 03 1985

Mr. John Raulston
 Chief Nuclear Engineer
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 400 Summit Hill Drive
 W10C126
 Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

RES Files	
Subject File No.	R-2912.0101
Task No.	
Research Request No.	
FIN No.	
NUREG No.	
Docket No.	
Subsiding No.	
Other	
Return NR 3-318	
to RES, Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Dear Mr. Raulston:

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is engaged in a task to update the probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) results on five U.S. LWRs. These plants are Surry, Peach Bottom, Sequoyah, Grand Gulf and Zion, and the task is limited to accident sequences resulting from internal initiators. This task will provide part of an information base to be used by NRR to interact with IDCOR in their development of a proposed methodology for resolving severe accident issues for plants without PRAs and to assist in developing a regulatory position on the appropriate role that risk insights should play in the regulation of nuclear power.

I appreciate very much your voluntary offer to permit our contractor (Sandia National Laboratories--SNL) to conduct a 5-day familiarization visit at your plant for approximately six people. This visit will permit a more realistic evaluation of your plant, including obtaining up-to-date information on any risk-important hardware and procedure modifications that have taken place since the PRA on your plant was completed. Such a realistic evaluation is crucial to the process of drawing accurate, plant-specific perspectives on plant risk and the principal contributors to that risk. The desired dates for this visit are July 31-August 2 and August 5-6, 1985.

Our contractor will be interacting with your plant personnel on this plant familiarization process. The person at SNL responsible for overall management of the five-plant reassessments is Mr. Frederick T. Harper (505-846-1975). The contractor's team leader for your plant are Messrs. Jon Young and Dave Moore, Energy Incorporated (206-854-0081). I would appreciate your naming a plant contact for day-to-day interactions. If you could provide this name by telephone, I would appreciate it greatly. Communications between the team leader and appropriate plant personnel should be as direct as possible to facilitate information exchange. However, I would like to be informed of any major problems that might arise that potentially could affect the quality of the work or the timeliness of its completion.

The plant familiarization process involves several aspects:

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1. The team will need access to selected P&IDs, elementary diagrams and emergency operating procedures. A list of items that will be needed is included as enclosure 1. It would help the team considerably if they were able to get some of these diagrams and procedures prior to the plant visit. The team will be in touch with the plant to discuss these needs.
2. The visit will include a walk-through and discussions with selected engineers and operators. Enclosure 2 characterizes the type of personnel that the team will need to talk to. Again, the team will discuss their specific needs with the plant.
3. Examples of the types of questions that will be asked are provided as enclosure 3. The team will provide a list of specific questions prior to the plant visit.
4. The team will need a continuing informal communications channel with the plant after the visit to answer quick turnaround questions.
5. After the analyses are completed (3 or 4 months after the plant visit), a revisit will be scheduled to confirm those plant features and procedures that appear to be most important to risk.

The above identifies the minimum needs to provide reasonable assurance that the team uses the proper information in the analyses. If you wish to provide even more support to this project to ensure as realistic an assessment of your plant as possible in the limited time available, we would certainly be agreeable. For example, it would be very useful to have a knowledgeable engineer or operations person spend a couple of weeks with the team at Seattle, Washington to provide prompt, first-hand support to the analysts.

Thank you again for your cooperation. The result of the plant visit will clearly be important to the accuracy, quality, and realism of the analyses and will definitely have a subsequent potential impact on regulation. We look forward to working with you on this demanding task.

Sincerely,

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Malcolm L. Ernst, Deputy Director
Division of Risk Analysis and Operations
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: Fred Harper, SNL
Tony Eng, NRC
Jon Young, EI

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