



#### MEMORANDA

- Issuance of the Updated Standard Review Plan for Public Comment Without ACRS Review (Memorandum to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, from John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, dated May 31, 1996) - Consistent with the Committee's decision, Dr. Larkins informed Mr. Taylor that the Committee has no objection to the NRC staff proposal to issue the subject updated Standard Review Plan (SRP) for public comment without ACRS review. The Committee may wish to review portions of the proposed final SRP following reconciliation of public comments by the staff.
- Draft Regulatory Guide Pertaining to the Preparation of Petitions for Rulemaking under 10 CFR 2.802 (Memorandum to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, from John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, dated June 3, 1996) - Consistent with the Committee's decision, Dr. Larkins informed Mr. Taylor that the Committee has decided not to review the subject Guide.
- Expedited Issuance of Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.160, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (Memorandum to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, from John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, dated June 12, 1996) - Consistent with the Committee's decision, Dr. Larkins informed Mr. Taylor that the Committee has no objection to the NRC staff proposal to waive the ACRS review and endorsement of the subject Regulatory Guide. The Committee may wish to review the experience gained in implementing the provisions of this Guide sometime in the future.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

##### 1. IPE Insights Report

The Committee heard presentations by and held discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and its contractor, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), regarding the draft Individual Plant Examination (IPE) Insights Report. This report documents perspectives gained from the review of 75 IPE submittals covering 108 nuclear power plant units.

##### Conclusion

The Committee plans to continue its review of this matter during future ACRS Subcommittee and Full Committee meetings.

2. Proposed Rule on Shutdown Operations

The NRC--staff and a representative of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) briefed the Committee regarding the proposed rule on Shutdown Operations and an associated Regulatory Guide as well as studies on shutdown risk at the Surry and Grand Gulf nuclear power plants. The proposed Shutdown Operations rule and Regulatory Guide are being developed with emphasis upon using a risk-informed performance-oriented approach. The objective was to provide a regulatory basis for shutdown operation that minimizes occurrence of events which may challenge fission product barriers and assures mitigation of events that do occur.

The staff and its contractors presented the objectives and the results of the shutdown risk studies for the Surry and Grand Gulf nuclear power plants. These two studies were performed concurrently by the BNL and Sandia National Laboratories. The objectives of these studies were to assess the risks of severe accidents due to internal events, internal fires, internal floods, and seismic events initiated during various plant operational states other than full power operation and to compare the estimated core-damage frequencies, the nature of important accident sequences and other qualitative results with those resulting from the evaluations of full power operation described in NUREG 1150, "Severe Accident Risks: An Assessment for Five U.S. Nuclear Power Plants."

An NEI representative provided comments on the proposed rule and stated that the industry continues to dispute the need for a Shutdown Operations rule.

Conclusion

The Committee issued a letter to the Executive Director for Operations dated June 4, 1996, on this matter.

3. Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems

The Committee heard presentations by and held discussions with representatives of the NRC Staff and its contractor, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The purpose of this meeting was to continue the ACRS review of the staff efforts to update the existing SRP Chapter 7 and associated guidance related to digital instrumentation and control systems. To date, the Committee has reviewed four proposed SRP sections, two Branch Technical Positions (BTPs), and six regulatory guides which endorse eight industry standards. The Committee has completed its review of all currently issued draft NRC staff regulatory guidance documents.

### Conclusion

The Committee issued a letter to the Executive Director for Operations, dated June 6, 1996, on this matter. The Committee plans to complete its review of the remaining SRP Sections and BTPs, as well as the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Phase 2 Study Report when they become available.

#### 4. Regulatory Review Group Recommendations

The Committee heard a presentation by and held discussions with a representative of the NRC staff concerning the status of resolution and implementation of the recommendations of the Regulatory Review Group (RRG). The RRG developed recommendations based on a disciplined review of power reactor regulations and related processes, programs, and practices. The staff developed a plan for implementing the RRG recommendations. Most implementation plan items have been completed and the responsibility for completing the remaining items has been formally transferred to appropriate NRC line organizations.

### Conclusion

The Committee issued a letter to the Executive Director for Operations, dated June 5, 1996, on this matter.

#### 5. Meeting with the NRC Commissioners

The ACRS met with the NRC Commissioners on May 24, 1996 and discussed the following topics:

- A. Use of IPES in the regulatory process, PRA framework document, pilot applications, and the next steps to expand the use of PRA in the regulatory decision-making process
- B. Fire protection issues, including fire PRA models and PRA-based scoping analysis of degraded fire barriers
- C. Proposed final revisions to 10 CFR Parts 50 and 100
- D. Status of ACRS review of Regulatory Guidance documents related to digital instrumentation and control systems.
- E. Status of ACRS review of standard plant designs:
  - ABWR and System 80+ design certification rules
  - AP600 design

- Test and analysis programs associated with the AP600 and SBWR designs
- F. Conformance of operating plants with NRC safety goals.

In the June 11, 1996 Staff Requirements Memorandum resulting from this meeting, the Commission requested that the ACRS provide advice on some specific issues. The Committee will review these matters and report back to the Commission.

#### RECONCILIATION OF ACRS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee discussed the response from the NRC Executive Director for Operations, dated April 24, 1996, responding to ACRS comments and recommendations included in the ACRS report dated March 15, 1996, concerning Review of Recent Fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment Reports by Brookhaven National Laboratory and Certain Fire Barrier Issues.

The Committee decided that it was satisfied with the EDO's response.

#### OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

During the period from April 11 through May 22, 1996, the following Subcommittee meetings were held:

- Thermal Hydraulic Phenomena Subcommittee - May 9-10, 1996

The Subcommittee continued its review of the Westinghouse Test and Analysis Program being conducted in support of the AP600 passive plant design certification.

- Plant Operations Subcommittee - May 21, 1996

The Subcommittee discussed the proposed Rule on Shutdown Operations and an associated Regulatory Guide, as well as studies on the shutdown risk associated with the Surry and Grand Gulf nuclear power plants.

- Instrumentation and Control Systems and Computers Subcommittee - May 22, 1996

The Subcommittee continued its discussion of the proposed SRP sections, BTPs, and Regulatory Guides related to digital instrumentation and control systems.



LIST OF FOLLOW-UP MATTERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

1. The Committee decided not to review the updated SRP at this time. The Committee may, however, review portions of the proposed final SRP after reconciliation of public comments. [A memorandum was issued to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, from John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, dated May 31, 1996.]
2. The Committee decided not to review the Draft Regulatory Guide Pertaining to the Preparation of Petitions for Rulemaking under 10 CFR 2.802. [A memorandum was issued to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, from John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, dated June 3, 1996.]
3. The Committee decided not to review Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.160, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." The Committee may wish to review the experience gained in implementing the provisions of this Guide sometime in the future. [A memorandum was issued to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, from John T. Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, dated June 12, 1996.]
4. During the discussion of the reconciliation of ACRS comments and recommendations, the Committee noted that in its February 26, 1996 report to the Commission concerning the Proposed Final NRC Bulletin and Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.82 dealing with potential plugging of emergency core cooling suction strainers, the ACRS commented that a diverse means of providing emergency core cooling is desirable because of the difficulty in predicting with confidence the amount of debris that would challenge the emergency core cooling system strainers. In a letter dated March 22, 1996, the Executive Director for Operations stated that the staff concurs with this comment and will revise the Regulatory Guide and the bulletin to place more emphasis on the need to improve, where appropriate, the procedures to better address core cooling from alternative sources of water.

Stating that the bulletin was issued without the changes committed to by the Executive Director for Operations, the Committee asked for an explanation. Mr. Soffer, Office of the Executive Director for Operations, agreed to provide an explanation at the June ACRS meeting.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE 432ND ACRS MEETING

The Committee agreed to consider the following during the 432nd ACRS Meeting, June 12-14, 1996:

Draft Regulatory Guide, DG-1047, "Standard Format and Content for Applications to Renew Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses" - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding draft Regulatory Guide, DG-1047.

Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate, as appropriate.

IPE Insights Report - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and its contractors regarding the draft IPE Insights Report.

Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate, as appropriate.

Loss of Offsite Power at Catawba, Unit 2 - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the findings and recommendations of the NRC Special Inspection Team which investigated the loss of offsite power that occurred on February 6, 1996 at the Catawba Nuclear Plant, Unit 2.

Representatives of the licensee will participate, as appropriate.

Issues Associated with Steam Generators - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and NEI regarding issues associated with steam generators.

Representatives of other interested parties will participate, as appropriate.

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 3 - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the licensee (Tennessee Valley Authority) regarding issues that led to the shutdown of Browns Ferry Unit 3, and the corrective actions taken by the licensee prior to restart.

Representatives of the NRC staff will participate, as appropriate.

Health Effects of Low-Levels of Ionizing Radiation - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and the Health Physics Society regarding the health effects of low levels of ionizing radiation.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and other interested parties will participate, as appropriate.

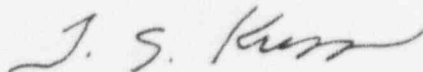
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NRC Policy Regarding the Use of Potassium Iodide after a Severe Accident - The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and NEI, the author of the petition for rulemaking, and an invited expert regarding the NRC policy associated with the stockpiling of potassium iodide near nuclear power plants.

Other interested parties will participate, as appropriate.

[Note: This item has been deferred indefinitely as requested by the NRC Staff.]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. S. Kress".

T. S. Kress  
Chairman