

OCT 28 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: PRA GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

This is in reference to your October 3 memorandum informing me of NUREG/CR-2815 and 3485 and of your noticing these for public comment. It is clear that the staff has devoted substantial effort toward developing guidance in this difficult area. This effort represents a first step in the long and difficult process toward evolving the kinds of standardization and guidance documents that will certainly be necessary given the inevitable expansion of PRA into the regulatory safety decision process.

After you receive the public comments, I recommend that you consider recasting these documents in the Standard Review Plan or Regulatory Guide formats (or both) if these are to reflect agency views. I recommend that you develop a staff consensus toward this purpose in the near future. In the interim, it should be made clear that these NUREGs do not represent agency positions. As part of this effort, I suggest that additional joint workshops with industry and other interested parties should also be used to evolve such standardization and guidance documents in the best practicable manner. Another consideration may be to solicit industry enthusiasm toward sponsoring a standardization approach that the staff could ultimately endorse.

Please keep me advised on your progress.

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: V. Stello
R. Minogue
J. Taylor

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