

November 9, 1999

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MEMORANDUM TO: Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Frank J. Congel, Director
Office of Incident Response Operations

SUBJECT: USER NEED FOR RISK-INFORMED INCIDENT RESPONSE

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Incident Response Operations (IRO) is committed to use risk information as an integral part of its incident response program and is looking forward to cooperative support from RES. We are in the process of developing methods using risk insights to identify plant transients as quickly and accurately as possible and to project plant risk during rapidly evolving incidents. IRO requires the latest risk-informed tools for the reactor safety team (RST) and the protective measures (PMT) to assess plant status in timely manner and to project plant damage states.

Dr. Jin Chung, a staff member on rotation from NRR, developed an event assessment approach which is based on risk insights available or developed within the agency. This concept was tested during the Diablo Canyon (PWR) and Limerick (BWR) exercises and shows promise. However, in order to be useful, the available plant-specific risk information has to be translated into a simple, user-friendly format. Sources of information include the individual plant evaluation (IPE) database, the simplified plant analysis risk/accident sequence precursor (SPAR/ASP) program, and the plant information books.

It is our understanding that RES is supporting the risk-informed performance-based inspection program for NRR and OE. Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) under the auspices of RES is developing a plant-specific Risk Information Matrix 2 (RIM2) for the Significance Determination Process (SDP), which utilizes the IPE. We believe that many risk insights extracted for RIM2 can be used directly for our needs with minimum additional effort. We are proposing to piggy-back with your current RIM2 project to produce plant-specific event assessment tables similar to the ones developed by Dr. Chung for the earlier exercises.

We are looking forward to working with your staff and welcome your support. We have designated Dr. Jin Chung (x-6838) to work with your staff for task and funding coordination.

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| NAME | JWChung <i>JWC</i> | CMiller <i>CM</i> | FJCongel <i>FJC</i> | | | | | | |
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