

January 20, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Theodore S. Sherr, Chief
Licensing and International
Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

Melvyn Leach, Acting Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

FROM: Philip Ting, Chief /RA/
Operations Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR CRITICALITY SAFETY RELATED EVENT REVIEW

Regarding the SPB proposal memorandum of December 30, 1999 (copy attached), FCOB concurs with the proposal to review criticality-related events and characterize the risks, root causes, and technical, legal, and administrative issues for the purpose of identifying generic criticality safety issues and their proposed resolution. However, a subcommittee of the NMSS Criticality Safety Committee should perform the review as suggested below. The new subcommittee should be formed with a membership appointed by the Chair of the Criticality Safety Committee, Dennis Damon, and consisting initially of the newest criticality safety specialists in FCOB, FCLB, and SPB. The chair of the new subcommittee should be rotated every six months. Appointing the newer criticality safety specialists would provide fresh insight into the generic implications of criticality safety related events. A charter for the new subcommittee should be developed and approved by the Criticality Safety Committee.

Attachment: SPB Proposal Memorandum

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Attachment: SPB Proposal Memorandum

Distribution:

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*Please see previous concurrence

OFC	FCOB	E	FCOB	FCOB
NAME	*DMorey		*WSchwink	*PTing
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Licensing and International Safeguards Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

Philip Ting, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

FROM: Melanie A. Galloway, Acting Chief /RA/
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 91-01 REVIEW PROCESS

Because the reporting of criticality safety events involving the violation of the double contingency principle can indicate safety, licensing, or regulatory issues which warrant NRC management attention, the Special Projects Branch is proposing that a team, comprised of representatives of each FCSS branch, be established within FCSS to review submitted Bulletin 91-01 reports on a regular basis and submit the results of its reviews to FCSS management with appropriate recommendations. The Special Projects Branch further proposes, given the high incidence of Bulletin 91-01 reports from the gaseous diffusion plants, that Mr. Larry Berg serve as chair of the team. Recommended team representatives are Mr. Dennis Damon (Licensing and International Safeguards Branch) and Ms. Sheryl Burrows (Operations Branch). The team will review the significance of criticality safety event reports on at least a monthly basis, and recommend to management such additional actions as requesting additional information, suggesting inspection followup, or performing on-site licensing reviews. Event significance will be evaluated by the team using the following criteria:

1. Does the report indicate which criticality safety parameters were impacted during the event? Does the report indicate whether the lost or degraded control solely protects the NCS parameter or provides defense in depth with at least one other control? Does the report indicate the significance of the loss of control (e.g., actual spacing to adjacent fissile bearing equipment)? Does the report indicate whether the as found condition is within the analyzed safety basis of the NCSE?
2. Based on the information in the report, does the failure of the control result in a decrease in effectiveness or reliability of the remaining controls associated with the impacted NCS parameter?
3. How many times has the situation of this lost or degraded control occurred at this particular facility?

Because the then Division Director and Deputy Division Director of FCSS have endorsed this concept previously, we are proposing that the team begin its function in January. While meetings are anticipated to occur monthly, an increased frequency may be required on occasion due to the volume of event reports. Mr. Larry Berg will contact Mr. Dennis Damon and Ms. Sheryl Burrows to coordinate the meeting time and place and event reports for review. Team members should have reviewed the event reports to be discussed prior to the meeting. This activity should not require more than 10% of each of the member's time. The first meeting will also focus on a plan for how the team will carry out its function.

Should you have any suggestions for further improving the team's function, please contact me or Larry Berg.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Melanie A. Galloway, Acting Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

December 30, 1999

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Special Projects Branch
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(*See previous concurrence)

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DATE	12/ 30/99		12/ 22 /99		12/22 /99		12/30/99		12/30/99	

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