

MINUTES - DECEMBER 8, 1999, COORDINATION MEETING
NRC AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Background

On December 8, 1999, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hosted the second coordination meeting with representatives from standards development organizations (SDOs) that develop standards used by the nuclear industry. The agenda is provided in Attachment 1. These meetings are held semi-annually in order to foster better communication between the SDOs and the NRC regarding the development and utilization of consensus standards.

Organizations in Attendance

The organizations attending were the American Nuclear Society (ANS), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Health Physics Society (HPS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), International Society of Instrumentation (ISA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the NRC. A list of participants is provided in Attachment 2.

Presentations and Discussion

John Craig, the NRC Standards Executive, opened the meeting by describing change in organizations and customers. He emphasized that the NRC decision to support and participate in standards development activities were based upon supporting the agency's strategic goals. In this context, it was noted that the creation of new or revised standards should be based upon the needs and requirements of the stakeholders who utilize the standards. A clear understanding of the user needs and requirements is really a definition of the purpose for the revision to a standard. Without such a clear definition, new or revised standards may not be used by stakeholders and interest and confidence in the standards organizations could be eroded. The slides for Mr. Craig's presentation are provided in Attachment 3.

Jack Strosnider, Standards Champion, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, followed with a short presentation (Attachment 3) about NRR budgeting for codes and standards. During this discussion, one participant noted that there is an ANSI requirement to review standards every

five years to determine if the standard should be maintained or deleted. It was mentioned that such a review may result in an SDO expending resources unnecessarily.

Next was a presentation on NRC Management Directive 6.5, "NRC Participation in the Development and Use of Consensus Standards," given by John Craig. A copy of the Management Directive (MD) was given to each attendee (Attachment 4), and they were asked to provide comments or suggestions on the MD. Comments or suggestions should be forwarded to the contact individual listed on the cover page of the MD (Gilbert Millman, 301-415-5843).

Tom King, Director, Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, discussed Risk-Informing Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities." This presentation (Attachment 3) provided an overview of NRC staff activities related to making NRC regulations more risk-informed. This included a discussion of the categorization of structures, systems, and components by comparing categorization based upon a deterministic criteria to categorization based upon risk-informed criteria. Several participants noted that other industries have been utilizing risk-informed process for a number of years, and that some Federal agencies require Probabilistic Risk Assessments be developed and maintained. One participant noted that there were existing standards which discussed the format and content of risk assessments and suggested that risk activities in other industries be looked at, for similar work may have already been done.

In closing, there was a handout from the ANS representatives containing organization charts and a list of representative ANS standards (Attachment 5). Two items were offered by participants for consideration by the NRC. The first item was to consider whether the Department of Energy and/or additional government agencies be invited to future SDO/NRC Coordination meetings. The second item was a suggestion to conduct a search of applicable international standards. With regard to meeting frequency, the participants agreed that future meetings should continue to be held on a semi-annual basis. John Craig thanked everyone for attending and participating in a successful meeting.