

March 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Michael E. Mayfield, NRC Standards Executive /RA/
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION NUCLEAR ENERGY
STANDARDIZATION EFFORT

The NRC has received a letter from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) stating that it no longer is able financially to support U.S. involvement in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 85 (TC85) on nuclear energy. The attachment to this memorandum provides details on the scope and structure of TC85, which covers radiation protection, and nuclear fuel and reactor technology. The U.S. is represented on TC85 by ANSI through its Nuclear Technical Advisory Group (NTAG). ANSI has funded NTAG for more than 20 years but can no longer do so. Other industries represented by ANSI on ISO technical committees have been funding ANSI to maintain U.S. representation. In its letter, ANSI states that if it is unable to raise \$50K by April 15, 2000, it will end its support for TC85. ANSI staff and NTAG volunteers need this funding to support one year of travel to committee meetings and the processing through U.S. experts of TC85 ballot actions. ANSI is seeking \$5K from each of 10 organizations to continue its effort for one additional year on TC85.

ANSI stresses that withdrawing from participation in TC85 will mean the U.S. will have little influence on future standards of this committee. TC85 standards will reflect positions of countries such as France (the present chair of TC85), Germany, Japan, and the UK. ISO, through TC85, develops standards to promote high levels of technical performance within the nuclear industry, and the safety of the workers, the environment, and the public. ANSI further highlights that NTAG's objective is to ensure that standards developed by TC85 are technically accurate and compatible with the interests of U.S. organizations. ANSI notes that disbanding NTAG would prevent the U.S. from balloting on TC85 standards and participating on that technical committee.

Contact: G. Millman, MEB/DET, at (301) 415-5843

Federal provisions¹ encourage staff to participate in the development and use of consensus standards and to consider the use of international as well as domestic standards. NRC staff participate on three ISO TC85 working groups that address radiation protection (see attachment). While participation at the working group level is important, having no participation at the TC85 level could have a significant impact on U.S. positions in final ISO TC85 standards. NRC regulations incorporate by reference two ISO standards.² These standards are not within the scope of TC85.

Please provide your recommendation to me by March 17, 2000, on the request by ANSI for NRC to contribute \$5K toward a \$50K need to continue U.S. representation on ISO TC85 for one additional year. I will develop a response to ANSI based on your input and that from other offices.

Attachment: As stated

Distribution

Cader DET r/f
 Tking MEB r/f
 ERossi
 FCherny

ASummerour (RES No. 2000011)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\Millman\ansit85.wpd

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	MEB/DET	ABC/MEB	AD/DET				
NAME	G.Millman	E. Hackett	M.Mayfield				
DATE	02/29/2000	02/29/2000	03/01/2000				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Accession number: ML003687011

¹Public Law 104-113, "National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995," and OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities"

²10 CFR Part 73.26 [ISO 1496, "General Cargo Containers" (1978)], and 10 CR Part 73 Appendix B [ISO 389, "Standard Reference Zero for the Calibration of Puretone Audiometer" (1975)]

Attachment

Technical Committee 85 Nuclear Energy

Subcommittee 2 (Radiation Protection)

- WG 2 Reference radiations
- WG 4 Apparatuses for gamma radiography and irradiators
- WG 5 Materials and devices for protection against alpha, X, gamma, beta and neutron radiations, and equipment for remote manipulation of radioactive materials
- WG 7 Thermoluminescence dosimeters
- WG 11 Sealed sources (NRC participation from NMSS)
- WG 12 Photographic dosimeters and pocket exposure-meters for individual dosimetry
- WG 13 Performance requirements for internal dose evaluation of bioassay results
- WG 14 Air monitoring and control (NRC participation from NMSS)
- WG 15 Criteria and testing procedures for the accuracies of external dosimetry for X and gamma rays (NRC participation from RES)
- WG 16 Procedure for radiation protection monitoring in nuclear installations for external exposure to weakly penetrating radiation, especially to beta radiation
- WG 17 Radioactivity measurements
- WG 18 Biological dosimetry

Subcommittee 5 (Nuclear Fuel technology)

- WG 1 Measurement methods for chemical and physical characterization of UF₆, UO₂ and UO₂/Gd₂O₃
- WG 3 Measurement methods for determination and characterization of input and end products of reprocessing plants
- WG 4 Standardization for transport containers for UF₆
- WG 5 Standardization of measurement methods for the characterization of solid and solidified waste forms, and for the corrosion of their primary containers
- WG 8 Standardization of calculations, procedures and practices related to criticality safety
- WG 9 Trunnions for spent fuel element shipping casks
- WG 12 Measurement methods for chemical and physical characterization of MOX pellets

Subcommittee 6 (Reactor Technology)

No appointed Working Groups. Scope includes:

- Seismic hazard design guidelines for research reactors and nuclear material facilities (excludes power reactors)
- Decay heat in nuclear power plants
- Seismic hazard design for nuclear power plants
- Nuclear power plant reliability data exchange

Working Groups that Report Direct to TC85

- WG 1 Terminology, definitions, units and symbols
- WG 3 Dosimetry for radiation processing