ASME/ANS RA-S–2008
(Revision of ASME RA-S–2002)

Standard for Level 1/Large Early Release Frequency Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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The 2008 edition of this Standard is being issued with an automatic addenda subscription service. The use of addenda allows revisions made in response to public review comments or committee actions to be published as necessary. The next edition of this Standard is scheduled for publication in 2010.

ASME issues written replies to inquiries concerning interpretations of technical aspects of this Standard. Interpretations are published on the ASME Web site under the Committee Pages at http://cstools.asme.org. [Interpretations are also included with each edition and addenda.]

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FOREWORD

The ASME Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards (BNCS) and American Nuclear Society (ANS) Standards Board mutually agreed in 2004 to form a Nuclear Risk Management Coordinating Committee (NRMCC). This committee was chartered to coordinate and harmonize Standards activities related to probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) between the two Standards development organizations (SDO). A key activity resulting from NRMCC was the development of PRA Standards structured around the Levels of PRA (i.e., Level 1, Level 2, Level 3) to be jointly issued by the two societies.

The scope of the initial issue of the ASME RA-S standard included Level 1 and Large Early Release Frequency (LERF) for internal events at power. In parallel with the development of ASME RA-S, ANS was developing companion PRA Standards covering external events, internal fire, and low power and shutdown conditions. These Standards are ANSI/ANS-58.21–2003, ANSI/ANS-58.23–2007, and ANS-58.22 (in development), respectively. ANS-58.22 will be added once it is approved as a revision or addendum. The three existing Standards are assembled together as a revision to ASME RA-S. Consequently, this revision to ASME RA-S is being issued with the revised identity of ASME/ANS RA-S–2008.

A major objective of the combined Standard is to ensure consistency in format, organization, language, and level of detail of the Standard. In assembling the component Standards the following criteria were used:

(a) the requirements in the Standards would not be revised or modified

(b) no new requirements would be included

(c) the numbering scheme of the technical requirements would be preserved

(d) the common requirements across the Standards would be consolidated into a single place

(e) the commentary and nonmandatory requirements would be retained

Implementation of the consensus process for this Standard revealed that preserving the exact same requirements from the component Standards created certain technical issues that will need to be addressed in a revision or addendum of ASME/ANS RA-S–2008.

During the development of the ASME RA-S and the ANS companion, titled PRA Standards for Internal Fires, External Events, and Low Power and Shutdown Conditions, concerns were raised by stakeholder organizations and SDOs with respect to stability and consistency in requirements between the Standards. Thus, a key objective of this Standard is to improve consistency and foster stability by enabling future changes to be applied across the various PRA scopes that previously existed as separate Standards. It is anticipated that efficiencies and improvements will result from maintaining, interpreting, and implementing one PRA Standard as opposed to four separate Standards. Additionally, the identification of common processes in general requirements sections for such areas as PRA configuration control, peer review, maintenance versus upgrade, and use in risk-informed applications can now be provided, which further supports consistency and stability. Using a single committee responsible for this Standard provides a single point of response to inquiries and places the expertise necessary to address and coordinate activities in a single cognizant group supported by responsible technical societies. In addition, this Standard is intended to determine the technical adequacy of a PRA such that the PRA can be used in decision making.

The Committee on Nuclear Risk Management (CNRM) operates under procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as meeting the criteria of consensus procedures for American National Standards. The initial Standard was approved by the ASME Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards and subsequently approved by ANSI on April 9, 2008.

CNRM is responsible for ensuring that this Standard is maintained and revised as necessary following its original publication. This includes appropriate coordination with and linkage to other Standards under development for related risk-informed applications.