



Report on NFPA's 805 Fire Safety Standard

The National Fire Protection Association's Technical Committee on Fire Protection for Nuclear Facilities is developing a new fire protection standard. The draft is titled, NFPA 805, Performance Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generation Plants. The standard will provide information that can be applied to manage elements of the fire risk at operating nuclear power plants. A unique feature of the standard is the performance-based methodology. This is a relatively new but growing application of fire science. The performance-based method provides design flexibility missing in the prescriptive standards used today.

Goals covered by the draft include nuclear safety, minimizing release of radioactive materials, life safety, and plant damage/business interruption. A chapter is also provided on fire protection concerns for nuclear power plants during decommissioning and permanent shutdown.

NFPA develops consensus standards open to public comment. Committee membership consists of volunteers from various interests. Present membership includes electric utilities, insurers, insurance brokers, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, fire protection consultants, and fire protection equipment vendors. The committee expects to complete the standard by November 2000.