

ANS Answers Inquiry on ANSI/ANS-2.3-2011, “Estimating Tornado, Hurricane, and Extreme Straight Line Wind Characteristics at Nuclear Facility Sites,” (*Nuclear News*, November 2014).

Inquiry:

Is Oak Ridge, Tennessee, located within Region I or Region II of Fig. 1 on page 3 of ANSI/ANS-2.3-2011? Is there a larger scale map or region maps that can help in better defining locations that are near region borders?

Response:

Since the aforementioned Standards Committee procedure prohibits responses to specific case inquiries, our response is limited to addressing a more general issue of determining the wind region of a specific location that is situated on or near the region boundary lines of Fig. 1 on page 3 of ANSI/ANS-2.3-2011.

If the specific region location is not clearly determinable from Fig. 1, such that the location under consideration is effectively on the boundary between two distinct regions, the region with the more severe wind conditions shall be conservatively assumed. Alternatively, ANSI/ANS-2.3-2011, Sec. 3.4.4, allows the use of site-specific studies as follows:

“Since significant variations in tornado characteristics may exist within a region due to local meteorological and topographical conditions, site-specific studies may yield tornadic wind speeds that differ significantly from those presented in Figs. 2, 3, and 4. Tornadic wind speeds obtained from site-specific studies, similar in detail and using methods and verified data similar to those referenced in this standard, may be used in lieu of those taken from Figs. 2, 3, and 4.”

Also, additional insights into site-specific data forming the basis for Fig. 1 might be gained from referring to the identified references in the standard.

It should be noted that three years has passed since ANSI/ANS-2.3-2011 was issued, and during these years there have been additional relevant wind data developed that will be considered in the next revision of this standard. You may wish to consult these additional sources, which are available in the public domain.