

June 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: Mark Kowal, Branch Chief
Technical Specifications and ITAAC Branch
Division of Construction Inspection
& Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

FROM: James Gaslevic, Reactor Operations Engineer */RA/*
Technical Specifications and ITAAC Branch
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Office of New Reactors

PARTICIPANTS: Public, Industry, and NRC Staff

SUMMARY OF JUNE 2, 2011, NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION PROGRAM CATEGORY 3 PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

On June 2, 2011, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of New Reactors (NRO) held a Category 3 public meeting to discuss various topics relating to new reactor construction (Agencywide Documents Access and Managements System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML11139A354). The purpose of the meeting was to update members of the public and discuss topics including licensees' commitment to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.215, "Guidance for ITAAC Closure Under 10 CFR Part 52", Changes during Construction, Construction Reactor Oversight Process, an expanded Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) closure notification template project, "report ITAAC", and environmental qualification audits and ITAAC inspections.

The meeting opened with a discussion regarding licensee commitments to utilize the ITAAC closure guidance in Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 08-01, "Industry Guideline for the ITAAC Closure Process Under 10 CFR Part 52", and RG 1.215, led by meeting facilitator Jim Gaslevic. Licensees are planning to use the guidance and commit to the RG. As a result of the discussions, general agreement was reached that applicants intend to revise their FSAR to include RG 1.215, as part of the first available FSAR update.

Earl R. Libby, Rulemaking and Guidance Development Branch (NRGA), Division of New Reactor Licensing (DNRL), Office of New Reactors (NRO) presented the Changes during Construction (CdC) status report on the activities of the NRO CdC working group (ML11153A007).

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The working group is resolving four related problem statements associated with the processes for changing the licensing basis of combined operating licenses (COLs) during the period of construction in accordance with 10 CFR 52 Appendixes Section VIII B.5. The work is well in progress for two separate guidance documents on the change processes. Draft NEI 96-07 Appendix C, containing guidance for the industry on the methodologies for implementing Section VIII B.5 change processes, is currently under NRC staff review. An initial set of comments were provided to NEI for incorporation. Draft Interim Staff Guidance, COL-ISG-025, containing guidance for NRC staff evaluation of the Section VIII B.5 change processes is in the NRC internal concurrence process and will be issued for public comment during June. While the public comment period for COL-ISG-025 is open, the NRC will hold an additional Category 3 public meeting to discuss the ISG.

Tom Kozak discussed the staff's recent actions in response to Commission direction to develop a construction assessment program that includes a construction significance determination process (SDP) (ML11151A149). Specifically, the staff has finalized both the regulatory structure for construction and the construction programmatic finding SDP. The construction technical finding SDP is nearing completion. The next step in the development of the construction SDP is for an expert panel consisting of NRC staff and industry representatives to meet on June 22 to finalize the risk significance portion of the SDP matrix. Subsequently, the staff will conduct table top exercises in mid to late July to test the construction SDP.

Thom Ray from Westinghouse led a presentation (ML11151A205) on their understanding of environmental and seismic qualification audit activities included in the Standard Review Plan, and questioned how their interpretation could be duplicative of ITAAC inspection efforts. NRO staff explained the differences and that overlap does not exist. Industry also discussed their intentions regarding completion of "report ITAAC" closure submittals.

NRC Construction ITAAC Team member Mahmoud Jardaneh presented on the Expanded ITAAC Closure Notification Examples Project (ML11153A127), which proposes a new set of approximately 22 ITAAC closure notifications (ML11153A136) be developed for the next revision of industry guide NEI 08-01. A key concept to this new set of examples is that each example represents a large group of ITAAC that have similar attributes. This set of new ITAAC closure notification examples will further enhance the existing examples in NEI 08-01. The purpose of this project is to reduce ITAAC closure notification development uncertainty during the closure process. The staff plans to develop a complete list of the ITAAC groups having similar attributes prior to the next public meeting. This presentation also included an update on the draft checklist for ITAAC closure verification (ML11153A140). The checklist will be used by the staff to document the determination basis used to verify ITAAC closure. This list will standardize the approach to reviewing ITAAC closure notifications, including support information on ITAAC closure. A draft closure notification for AP1000 ITAAC 2.1 02.07a.ii (ML11153A146) was presented by industry and preliminarily reviewed by the NRC during the meeting. Final discussions of the morning-only session involved industry's request for NRC staff to review 225-day notifications required by 52.99, and how more examples of these 225-day notifications might be included in the next NEI 08-01 revision.

The next Category III public meeting is scheduled to be held on July 28, 2011, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Two White Flint North Auditorium, in Rockville MD.

Members of the public were in attendance, and Public Meeting Feedback forms were distributed and submitted according to standard protocols. Please direct any inquiries to James Gaslevic at (301) 415-2776 or James.Gaslevic@nrc.gov.

cc w/encl:
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NRC-001

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(Revised 6/15/2010)

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