



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 12, 2019

ALL STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

NRC REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 PUBLIC MEETING (STC-19-058)

Purpose: To inform State Liaison Officers that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be holding a Reactor Oversight Process public meeting on September 25, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Background:

In early 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Executive Director for Operations established the Transformation Team. As noted in the Transformation Team's charter, dated February 22, 2018, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18044A984), the team's objective was to identify "potential transformational changes to the NRC's regulatory framework, culture, and infrastructure to further enhance our effectiveness, efficiency, and agility in regulating novel technologies." From this effort, the Transformation Team received 72 recommendations for enhancing the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) (ADAMS Accession No. ML18292A594). Because these recommendations were not directly relevant to the Transformation Team's objectives, they were referred to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) for evaluation and disposition. Subsequently, an additional 27 ROP recommendations were provided to NRR for consideration in a letter from the Nuclear Energy Institute (ADAMS Accession No. ML18262A322).

To evaluate these recommendations and anticipated future ROP feedback, the NRC staff initiated a ROP enhancement initiative. Phase 1 of the ROP enhancement initiative resulted in the staff issuing Commission (SECY) paper, SECY-19-0067, "Recommendations for Enhancing the Reactor Oversight Process" (ADAMS Accession No. ML19070A036) on June 28, 2019. Phase 2 of the ROP enhancement initiative is on-going and the staff plans to focus on long-term recommendations to enhance the ROP in the following areas: problem identification and resolution inspection program, an effectiveness review of the Cross-cutting Issues Program, radiation protection inspections, Independent Spent Fuel Facility Installation inspections, and enhancements to the emergency preparedness oversight program.

The NRC is currently soliciting public comment on these long-term ROP enhancement efforts, the broad range of ROP topics described in SECY-19-0067, and any of the other areas of the ROP that the staff should consider under this initiative (see Federal Register (NRC 2019-0155)). The comment period for NRC 2019-0155 ends October 7, 2019.

Discussion: The goal of the ROP enhancement initiative is to better risk-inform the ROP and to make it more licensee performance-based while being consistent with NRC's Principles of Good Regulation (Independence, Clarity, Openness, Reliability and Efficiency). The next ROP enhancement public meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Bridge line 1-866-453-8923 and passcode 5577289).

For more information on the ROP enhancement initiative, please see the public website at:
<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/oversight/rop-enhancement.html>.

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DATED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

ADAMS Accession No.: ML19254B639

***via email**

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