



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

November 19, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Anthony D. Masters, Chief  
Reactor Assessment Branch  
Division of Reactor Oversight  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Tekia V. Govan, Project Manager */RA*  
Reactor Assessment Branch  
Division of Reactor Oversight  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS MONTHLY  
PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2021

On October 20, 2021, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff hosted a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Task Force executives, and other senior industry executives, to discuss the staff's progress on various ROP initiatives. The topics discussed during this teleconference are described below.

**Industry Feedback on the NRC's COVID Lessons Learned Charter**

The summary for this topic was provided directly from NEI's industry representative:

"Industry recognizes the value and essential nature of onsite inspections. We believe the NRC's effort is not about de-valuing the role of having inspectors onsite but about applying the many insights we have all collectively learned to consider how we can be smarter in the future on how to best conduct oversight activities either during a pandemic or during the time following this pandemic.

- We are keenly interested in how the NRC adapts to the evolution and changing dynamics within the nuclear industry and better understanding the NRC's vision of a post-pandemic oversight program.
- The nuclear industry has evolved in how daily activities are conducted. In particular, new and innovative ways to support daily plant operations have emerged from the pandemic and are being integrated into our operations. IT solutions and use of technology will have increased roles in how business is conducted and the charter should consider these collective insights to determine how to best conduct oversight activities during a pandemic and how to adapt to the evolving use of technology post-pandemic.

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- Expanding on the following focus areas from the initial COVID LL report issued in January 2021 makes sense. That report was appropriately more tactical, whereas this effort has an opportunity to be more strategic and seek out improvement opportunities for a post-pandemic oversight program.
  - Information Technology (IT) capability and reliability
  - Remote inspection practices
  - Inspection guidance enhancements
- The charter is focused on inspections. We are interested in understanding how other elements of the NRC are reflecting lessons learned (e.g. security, licensing) and how these learnings will be integrated and any opportunities for stakeholder engagement.
- We are interested in understanding what the NRC is considering with a Memorandum of Understanding to capture NRC remote access and IT tools and systems. The NRC’s intent is unclear and a better understanding of how an MOU fits into NRC’s vision for a post-pandemic oversight program would be valuable.
- The target date of July 2022 for completion with recommendations appears reasonable and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input through the ROPTF.”

**Next Steps on the Withdrawn SECY-19-0067, “Recommendations for Enhancing the Reactor Oversight Process”**

The NRC staff presented an overview of the status of SECY 19-0067 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21291A190) and indicated that they are currently reevaluating the basis for several of the recommendations in the paper. The chart below provides the current status for each recommendation that is being reevaluated.

| Recommendation  | New Information to Consider                                     |
|---|---|
| Eliminate 4-quarter requirement for inspection findings   | Updated data on licensees moving to Column 2.                   |
| Revise treatment of GTG PIs to remain Action Matrix inputs until supplemental inspection complete | Same as above   |
| Revise description of White and Yellow safety significance  | No new information.   |
| Revise sample size requirements for several IPs, including IP 71124.02                            | Staff needs to review inspection data compiled since June 2019. |
| Revise EP SDP to limit Planning Standards for which a GTG finding would be assessed.              | No new information  |

Revise frequency of PI&R inspection from biennial to triennial

Comprehensive review completed and did not support or refute the frequency change. Highlighted incremental changes that could be made.

By November 2022, the staff plans to update the bases with any new considerations and information. By Summer 2022, the staff will have developed one or more individual Commission paper to address the recommendations identified in SECY-19-0067.

### **Next Steps on the Withdrawn SECY-18-0113, “Recommendations for Modifying the Reactor Oversight Process Engineering Inspection”**

The staff gave a presentation on the “Engineering Inspection Program 2021 and Beyond” (ADAMS Accession No. ML21291A189). This presentation provided a status of SECY-18-0113 and discussed the near-term considerations for the Combined Engineering Team Inspections. The staff also discussed the proposed 4-year Engineering Inspection cycle, which will be included in a new SECY paper to the NRC Commission.

### **Update on 10 CFR 50.72(b) Rulemaking**

The NRC staff provided a brief update on the activities associated with the nonemergency reporting requirements rulemaking for operating nuclear power plants per 10 CFR 50.72(b). A public meeting was held on November 4, 2021, in which the NRC staff requested feedback on several questions to assist in the development of the draft Regulatory Basis (ADAMS Accession No. ML21288A427). The feedback the NRC staff is requesting is informal. The development of the regulatory basis is an early step in the rulemaking process and the draft document will be published Spring or Summer 2022 for formal public comment. NEI stated that it is working to develop data and information for consideration during the NRC’s evaluations, but that it might not be ready by the November 4, 2021 public meeting. NEI requested the NRC to consider another public meeting in December 2021. The NRC staff responded that the schedule to develop the regulatory basis was very tight and it did not plan for two public meetings, but it would consider the request.

### **Status of IMC 0609 Appendix C**

The NRC staff provided information regarding the planned revision of the Occupational Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process (SDP) documents: 1) Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0609, Appendix D, “Occupational Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process;” and 2) IMC 0308, Attachment 3, Appendix D, “Technical Basis for Occupational Radiation Safety Significance Determination Process.” The staff indicated that, currently, the planned revisions are to address NRC internal feedback forms and to make clarifications and administrative changes. The staff stated that the proposed changes include, clarifying that the most recent officially submitted three-year rolling average at the time of the SDP evaluation should be used when evaluating ALARA findings and providing clarification on the difference between an ALARA finding and an ALARA violation. The staff communicated that they would make the proposed changes publicly available at a later time and that they would provide additional information at a future ROP monthly meeting.

**Meeting Action Items**

No action items.

**Communicating with the NRC staff**

At the start of all ROP public meetings, the project manager provides contact information for the public to use to provide their name as a participant in the meeting. This contact information is also provided for submitting questions and comments to the NRC technical staff. Please note that any questions and/or comments pertaining to the ROP project can be sent to [Tekia.Govan@nrc.gov](mailto:Tekia.Govan@nrc.gov). Questions and/or comments will be forward to the appropriate NRC staff. The staff also mentioned the role out of the "Contact Us about ROP" page on the new ROP website, which can also be used to submit questions and comments regarding the ROP initiative (<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/oversight/contactus.html>).

**Conclusion**

At the end of the meeting, NRC and industry management gave closing remarks. The industry representatives expressed appreciation for the open dialogue and willingness of NRC staff to hear industry views. The NRC management stressed the importance of the NRC being focused on providing reasonable assurance of public health and safety when considering changes to the ROP.

The enclosure provides the attendance list for this meeting.

Enclosure:  
As stated

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING ON OCTOBER 20, 2021

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML21323A046**

**\* = via email**

| <b>OFFICE</b> | <b>NRR/DRO/IRAB/PM</b> | <b>NRR/DRO/IRAB/BC</b> | <b>NRR/DRO/IRAB/PM</b> |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>NAME</b>   | TGovan*                | AGarmoe for AMasters*  | TGovan*                |
| <b>DATE</b>   | 11/18/2021             | 11/19/2021             | 11/19/2021             |

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

## LIST OF ATTENDEES

### REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

October 20, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

| <b>Name</b>              | <b>Organization<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Name</b>           | <b>Organization</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Nicole Good              | Star Alliance                   | Micheal Smith         | NRC                 |
| John Giddens             | Entergy                         | James Anderson        | NRC                 |
| Jim Slider               | NEI                             | Robert Krsek          | NRC                 |
| Deann Raleigh            | Unknown                         | Zachery Hollcraft     | NRC                 |
| Larry Nicholson          | Certrec Corporation             | Nicole Fields         | NRC                 |
| Tony Zimmerman           | Duke Energy                     | Douglas Bollock       | NRC                 |
| Robin Ritzman            | Curtiss-Wright                  | Chris Speer           | NRC                 |
| Steve Catron             | NextEra                         | Shakur Walker         | NRC                 |
| Jonathan Johnson         | TVA                             | Tekia Govan           | NRC                 |
| R. Keith Brown           | Unknown                         | Caty Nolan            | NRC                 |
| Linda Dewhirst           | Unknown                         | Christopher Regan     | NRC                 |
| Carl Collins             | Unknown                         | Ross Telson           | NRC                 |
| Tim Riti                 | NEI                             | Jeffrey Bream         | NRC                 |
| Carlos Sisco             | Winston and Strawn              | Anthony Masters       | NRC                 |
| Isaac Mulhern            | Unknown                         | Robert Kahler         | NRC                 |
| Lindsey Grissom          | Unknown                         | Lisa Regner           | NRC                 |
| Wendy Brost              | Unknown                         | Jack Bell             | NRC                 |
| Terrance Reis            | Southern Nuclear                | Daniel Merzke         | NRC                 |
| Brett Titus              | NEI                             | Chanel Stridiron      | NRC                 |
| Jeffrey Deal             | Unknown                         | Charles Murray        | NRC                 |
| Adam Goodman             | Fleet Regulatory Affairs        | Ronald Cureton        | NRC                 |
| David Mannai             | PSEG                            | David Aird            | NRC                 |
| Andrew Mauer             | NEI                             | Paul Rades            | NRC                 |
| David Gudger             | Exelon Nuclear                  | Laura Kozak           | NRC                 |
| Jared Smith              | Exelon Nuclear                  | Mike King             | NRC                 |
| Ronnie Surber            | Unknown                         | Christopher Cauffman  | NRC                 |
| William Reynolds         | Exelon Nuclear                  | Jo Bridge             | NRC                 |
| Edwin Lyman              | Union of Concerned Scientists   | Alex Garmoe           | NRC                 |
| John Hughey              | NRC                             | Eric Duncan           | NRC                 |
| Joylynn Quinones-Navarro | NRC                             | Tony Nakanishi        | NRC                 |
| Doris Lewis              | NRC                             | Kimyata Morgan-Butler | NRC                 |
| Ray Azua                 | NRC                             | Michael McCoppin      | NRC                 |

<sup>1</sup> Unknown organization indicates that the participant's affiliation was not provided by the issuance of this meeting summary.

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Name</b>        | <b>Organization</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Harry Balian        | Unknown             | Philip McKenna     | NRC                 |
| Steven Dolley       | S&P Global Platts   | Amy Hardin         | NRC                 |
| Cheryl Ann Gayheart | Unknown             | Thomas Hipschman   | NRC                 |
| Kari Osborne        | Unknown             | Kevin Hsueh        | NRC                 |
| Margaret Offerle    | Unknown             | Steven Garry       | NRC                 |
| Andrew Zach         | EPW                 | Melissa Chui       | NRC                 |
| Patricia Pelke      | NRC                 | Steven Smith       | NRC                 |
| Avinash Jaigobind   | NRC                 | Dariusz Szwarc     | NRC                 |
| Catherine Kanatas   | NRC                 | Edward Stutzcage   | NRC                 |
| Tom Eck             | NRC                 | Brigit Larsen      | NRC                 |
| Marc Ferdas         | NRC                 | Julio Lara         | NRC                 |
| Manuel Crespo       | NRC                 | Reinaldo Rodriguez | NRC                 |
| Micheal Montecalvo  | NRC                 | Antonios Zoulis    | NRC                 |
| Russell Felts       | NRC                 | Karla Stoedter     | NRC                 |
| Derek Widmayer      | NRC                 | Frances Ramirez    | NRC                 |
| Bridget Curran      | NRC                 |                    |                     |