

February 14, 2000

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF LICENSE RENEWAL STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING WITH THE LICENSE RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) License Renewal Steering Committee (LRSC) met with the NEI License Renewal Working Group on December 9, 1999, to discuss the status of the first two license renewal applications and generic license renewal activities. The agenda for the meeting is provided in Attachment 1. Attendees are listed in Attachment 2. Following is a summary of the topics discussed at the meeting:

1. Status of applications

a. Calvert Cliffs

The milestone schedule for completing the review of the Calvert Cliffs license renewal application was discussed (Attachment 3). Baltimore Gas and Electric's presentation materials are contained in Attachment 4.

The NRC staff has issued the final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), final safety evaluation report (SER), and conducted the final inspection. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) has met and was preparing its report to the Commission regarding issuance of the license. (The ACRS letter was subsequently issued on December 10, 1999.) Actions needed to resolve all remaining significant issues have been identified. BGE continues to consider communications to be good and had no issues to raise to the LRSC.

b. Oconee

The milestone schedule for completing the review of the Oconee license renewal application was discussed (Attachment 5). The final SEIS was approved on December 9, 1999, and was delivered to the Environmental Protection Agency for inter-agency review.

The final SER was under preparation (later issued on February 3, 2000). A separate public meeting was held on December 9, 1999, to discuss resolution of 14 remaining open items. All but 6 were resolved and success paths were identified for their resolution. Duke Energy, Inc., intends to update the license renewal final safety analysis report supplement and submit it to the staff. Duke also said it planned to submit a license amendment to remove license conditions from its existing license that are no longer applicable (subsequently submitted on January 27, 2000).

2. Active license renewal issues status

The current Active License Renewal Issues list (Attachment 6) was provided at the meeting. This list reflects the re-categorization of license renewal issues established between NEI and the NRC staff and assignment of target dates for all issues on the list. The new definitions of the categories are described on page 2 of Attachment 6. Attachment 7 provides a status of all license renewal issues.

The NRC staff also intends to work on resolutions to issues not currently included on the active list. The question was raised as to the overlap between the license renewal issues and material contained in the draft Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report that is publicly available and under review by the industry. NEI indicated that it intends on providing initial comments on the GALL report in March 2000. The draft GALL report and the draft license renewal standard review plan (SRP) will be issued for public comment in August 2000. The staff and NEI agreed to identify those issues that are covered by material contained in the GALL report, what resources are needed to resolve those that are not, and are the needed resources available. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

The staff intends to incorporate the resolution of renewal issues into the GALL report and the SRP, as appropriate. NEI is expected to incorporate applicable resolutions into the industry license renewal implementation guideline, NEI 95-10.

3. Status of planned applications

a. Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

Entergy Operations, Inc., stated that it planned to submit a license renewal application for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 (ANO-1) in January 2000. The submittal was delayed from the previously announced December 1999 submittal to allow Entergy to incorporate comments received from a Nuclear Energy Institute peer review of the application and lessons learned from the ongoing Calvert Cliffs and Oconee reviews. Subsequently, Entergy met with the NRC staff on December 15, 1999, to provide an overview of its renewal application, including the environmental report, to facilitate the staff's review of the application. The ANO-1 renewal application was received by the NRC on February 1, 2000.

b. Hatch, Units 1 and 2

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (SNC), stated that it planned to submit the Hatch license renewal application in mid-February 2000, later re-scheduled to late February 2000. SNC also submitted an exception request to allow it to submit only one signed paper copy of the application and provide the rest of the required copies on CD-ROMs. The exception request was subsequently approved by the staff on January 24, 2000.

c. Status of industry projections of applications and NRC resource needs

At previous meetings, the NEI Working Group agreed that it would pursue identifying the number of license renewal applications planned per year by licensees to help the NRC project license renewal resource needs. Because of the significant number of resources needed to review a

renewal application, an accurate estimate is crucial to the NRC's budgeting process. NEI stated that a letter will be sent to licensee chief operating officers informing them of the importance of informing the NRC at least five years in advance of their plans for submitting a renewal application. These letters are being sent in place of NEI collecting and submitting renewal application projections to the NRC.

4. Implementation guidance development

The schedule for development of the GALL report, license renewal SRP and regulatory guide (RG), and NEI 95-10 was provided at the September 29, 1999, meeting (see meeting summary dated November 17, 1999). In the future, the schedule will be handed out and discussed at each meeting. Since the September 29 meeting, the NRC staff has participated in a NEI sponsored license renewal workshop held November 15-16, 1999, and conducted a public workshop on December 6, 1999, regarding the development of the GALL report and SRP. NEI submitted an interim update of NEI 95-10 on January 24, 2000.

5. NRR Office Letter 805 development

a. Appeals processes

In response to an NEI request, the staff is documenting its process for a stakeholder (whether it be industry, staff, or an interested member of the public) to appeal the proposed resolution of a generic license renewal issue. The process is not new, but documents the process and establishes timeframes for appealing through the NRC's chain of command. The only difference is the availability and involvement of the License Renewal Steering Committee. This process will be incorporated into the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's Office Letter No. 805, "License Renewal Application Review Process."

b. Process to address emerging issues late in reviews

NEI had requested feedback on how the NRC controls issues that emerge late in the review process of a renewal application. The LRSC clarified that if an issue is identified, its significance is evaluated by both staff and management with respect to the ability of the NRC to make its reasonable assurance finding that actions have been or will be taken to manage the effects of aging during the period of extended operation on the functionality of structures and components that are subject to review. If that finding cannot be made, the applicant must address the issue before a renewed license can be issued.

6. Resolution of GSI-190 on fatigue

The status of Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-190, "Fatigue Evaluation of Metal Components for 60-Year Plant Life," was discussed. The NRC staff has completed all actions planned for the resolution of GSI-190, and will close out the issue without imposition of new or additional generic action for licensed plants up to a 60-year plant life. This GSI was identified in 1996 to supplement the ongoing work on GSI-78, "Monitoring of Fatigue Transient Limits for Reactor Coolant System," and residual work on GSI-166, "Adequacy of Fatigue Life of Metal Components," by addressing fatigue of metal components for 60-year plant life.

The conclusion to close out this issue is based upon the low core damage frequencies from fatigue failures of metal components estimated by technical studies making use of recent fatigue data developed on test specimens. The results of these probabilistic analyses and associated sensitivity studies led the staff to conclude that no generic regulatory action is required. However, calculations including environmental effects, that were performed to support resolution of this issue, and the nature of age-related degradation indicate the potential for an increase in the frequency of pipe leaks as plants continue to operate. Thus, the staff concludes that, consistent with existing requirements in 10 CFR 54.21, licensees should address the effects of the coolant environment on component fatigue life as aging management programs are formulated in support of license renewal.

/RA/

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Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 690

Attachments: As stated

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AGENDA

NRC LICENSE RENEWAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE NEI LICENSE RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

DECEMBER 9, 1999

1. Status of applications
 - a. Calvert Cliffs
 - b. Oconee
2. Active license renewal issues status
3. Status of planned applications
 - a. Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1
 - b. Hatch, Units 1 and 2
 - c. Status of industry projections of applications and NRC resource needs
4. Implementation guidance development (GALL, SRP, RG, & NEI 95-10)
5. NRR Office Letter 805 development
 - a. Appeals processes
 - b. Process to address emerging issues late in reviews
6. Resolution of GSI-190 on fatigue

ATTENDANCE LIST
NRC LICENSE RENEWAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WITH THE NEI LICENSE RENEWAL WORKING GROUP
DECEMBER 9, 1999

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2. Michael Mayfield	NRC/RES/DET
3. Chris Grimes	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
4. Jack Strosnider	NRC/NRR/DE
5. David Matthews	NRC/NRR/DRIP
6. Jim Caldwell	NRC/RIII
7. Janice Moore	NRC/OGC
8. Roy Zimmerman	NRC/NRR
9. Louis Long	Southern Nuclear
10. Mike Tuckman	Duke Energy Corporation (Duke)
11. Charlie Cruse	BGE CCNPP
12. Leslie Hartz	Virginia Power
13. Randy Hutchinson	Entergy
14. Joseph Hagan	PECO-Energy
15. Doug Walters	NEI
16. David Lewis	Shaw Pittman
17. Robert Gill	Duke
18. Tony Pietrangelo	NEI
19. Lynn Connor	DSA
20. Jit Vora	NRC/RES/DET/MEB
21. Nancy Chapman	SERCH/Bechtel
22. Jake Zimmerman	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
23. Sam Lee	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
24. Steve Hale	FPL
25. Bill Corbin	Virginia Power
26. Sherry Bernhoft	FPC
27. Melvin Frank	Sciencetech/NUSIS
28. Berni Van Sant	OPPD
29. Mark Wetterhahn	Winston & Strawn
30. Charles Pierce	Southern Nuclear
31. Fred Polaski	PECO Energy
32. Edward Sproat	PECO Energy
33. P. T. Kuo	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
34. P. J. Kang	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
35. William Burton	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
36. M. Callahan	GSI
37. Noel Dudley	ACRS
38. Stephen Koenick	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
39. Dave Solorio	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLSB
40. Linda Howell*	NRC/Region IV
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