

April 11, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Ledyard B. Marsh, Acting Deputy Director  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: William D. Reckley, Project Manager /RA/  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2002, BETWEEN  
NRC STAFF AND INDUSTRY LICENSING ACTION TASK FORCE

Members of the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hosted a meeting with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and licensees comprising the Licensing Action Task Force (LATF) on February 20, 2002, at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. This meeting was open to the public. A list of attendees is provided as Attachment 1.

The first of two topics discussed was possible improvements in the industry and NRC processes for handling licensing actions related to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Codes referenced in Section 50.55a of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.55a). The following attachments were provided to the staff by the LATF:

- Attachment 2: General discussion of LATF efforts related to 10 CFR 50.55a
- Attachment 3: A draft mission statement for the LATF ASME Code Task Team
- Attachment 4: A proposed standard format for licensees seeking relief from, or proposing alternatives to, the ASME Code
- Attachment 5: A proposed process/rule change to revise approval of ASME Code Cases

The NRC staff was generally receptive to standardizing licensee's applications for relief from, or proposed alternatives to, the ASME Code. The staff committed to provide comments on the proposed standardized format for applications to support the LATF's plans to widely distribute the document to industry for comment. The staff likewise stated that we would consider possible methods to expedite the licensing process for ASME Code Cases and would continue discussions with the LATF ASME Code Task Team. In response to questions that arose during the meeting, the staff performed a cursory review of available databases to estimate the number of relief requests that involve adoption of an ASME Code Case. For calendar year 2001, the staff performed approximately 200 reviews which resulted in the issuance of approximately 350 docket-specific licensing actions coded as relief requests (i.e., TAC numbers with activity type "LR" in WISP). The number of reviews associated with ASME Code Cases is estimated to be between 40 and 50 percent of the total.

The second topic discussed was the industry and staff efforts related to reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. The staff provided an update on the status of a Commission Paper on this subject. The paper is in the concurrence process within the NRC and is expected to be presented to the Commission in April 2002. The staff's current plans involve performing a review of regulatory requirements, with a particular focus on paperwork-oriented or other possibly obsolete regulations, and selecting several candidates for which we will develop proposed rulemakings. Possible changes that are beyond the capabilities of the small team working on the limited-scope, short-term initiative will be referred to the appropriate line organization for consideration. The staff will continue its discussions with the LATF as it proceeds on this initiative.

Attachments: As stated

cc w/attach: See next page

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Attachments: As stated

cc w/attach: See next page

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**Package: ML021060515**

**Attachment 2: ML021050386**

**Attachment 4: ML021050429**

**Attachment 3: ML021050390**

**Attachment 5: ML021050437**

**Accession Number:ML020910082**

\*See previous concurrence

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LICENSING ACTION TASK FORCE MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 2002

LIST OF ATTENDEES

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Tad Marsh	NRC/NRR/DLPM
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John Lamb	NRC/NRR/DLPM
David Terao	NRC/NRR/DE
Ted Sullivan	NRC/NRR/DE
Mike Schoppman	NEI
James Fisicaro	Duke Energy
Don Woodlan	TXU Electric
Dale Wuokko	First Energy/BWOG
Charles Brinkman	Westinghouse
Getachew Tosfaye	Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
George Rombold	Exelon
Pedro Salas	TVA
Jack Gray	BWROG/Entergy Nuclear Northeast
Pete Kokalakis	Entergy Nuclear Northeast
Jim Kenny	PPL
Brian McIntyre	AEP
Scott Bauer	APS
Brooke Poole	Winston and Strawn
Jenny Weil	McGraw-Hill
Deann Raleigh	LIS/Scientech
Nancy Chapman	SERCH/Bechtel

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