

April 5, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Cynthia Carpenter, Program Director
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Joseph L. Birmingham, Project Manager */RA/*
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 19, 2002 MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR
ENERGY INSTITUTE REGARDING CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY

On March 19, 2002, representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Control Room Habitability (CRH) Task Force met with staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the NRC's offices in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of industry activities and NRC actions to issue a generic communication and regulatory guides on control room habitability issues. Attachment 1 is a list of those in attendance at the meeting. In addition to those at the meeting, approximately 20 additional licensees participated via a teleconference line set up for the meeting. Attachment 2 contains the slides presented by NEI at the meeting.

After opening remarks from Suzanne Black, NRC Deputy Division Director of DSSA, Mark Reinhart, NRC Section Chief, reviewed the history of the control room habitability effort and discussed open issues. These issues address the appropriate integration of new information into plant licensing bases, testing methodology, correction of a technical specifications surveillance requirement, and the assessment of fire byproducts (smoke and other toxic substances). The staff discussed with NEI the possibility of a binding industry initiative in lieu of a generic letter to provide the staff with information on the status of control room envelopes with respect to unfiltered inleakage and necessary corrective action in consideration of the regulatory guides and NEI 99-03. NEI indicated that it did not find the issue appropriate for a binding industry initiative.

After reviewing the substance of the regulatory guides and NEI 99-03, the staff and NEI noted that they were close to agreement. The industry and staff emphasized the need to continue to work closely during the public comment period for the draft regulatory guides and proposed generic letter. The staff confirmed that it will accept comments on the regulatory guides and generic letter for 90 days after the final regulatory guide and the generic letter are issued for public comment.

Jim Riley, from NEI, presented a chronology of NEI and NRC efforts to develop control room habitability guidance dating back to 1998. He reviewed the makeup of the NEI task force (licensees, EPRI, vendors, and NEI) and its purpose. He presented the key elements for which guidance was included in NEI 99-03 and presented an overview of activities that have been taken for improving control room habitability (see Attachment 2).

NEI discussed their perspective of the four outstanding issues; test methodology, licensing basis, technical specifications, and smoke/toxic gases. NEI presented information from recent inleakage testing performed at Palo Verde and Comanche Peak in 2001 which was performed to allow correlation of the results of component testing versus tracer gas testing. NEI stated that the results indicated that there were benefits to both types of testing but that the results of the two types of tests varied. In part, NEI attributed the difference to the larger uncertainty associated with tracer gas testing than with component testing.

After the NEI presentation, the staff indicated that it would proceed to issue the additional regulatory guidance to address the open issues. (They were subsequently issued for public comment on March 27, 2002.) The staff agreed to look closely at any new proposals for conforming changes to NEI 99-03 during the public comment period. NEI indicated it would evaluate this potential and continue its interface with the NRC. NEI also agreed to take an action item to talk with the Technical Specification Task Force on the technical specifications surveillance requirement.

After asking for public comments or questions, the meeting was adjourned.

Project No. 689

Attachments: As stated

cc w/atts: See list

List of Attendees For CRH Meeting, March 19, 2002

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Alex Marion	Nuclear Energy Institute
Jim Riley	Nuclear Energy Institute
Kurt Cozens	Nuclear Energy Institute
John Duffy	PSEG Nuclear
Roger Walker	Comanche Peak
Ken Taplett	STPNOC
Stephen P. Schultz	Duke Energy
Robert Brown	TVA
Robert Campbell	TVA
Juan M. Cajigas	Applied Analysis Corp.
Tom Mscisz	Exelon Nuclear
Fred Madden	STARS
Nancy Chapman	SERCH/Bechtel
Gregory Twachtman	McGraw Hill
Suzanne Black	NRR/DSSA
Mark Reinhart	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
Mark Blumberg	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
John Hayes	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
Steve LaVie	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
Leta Brown	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
Hal Walker	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
Vincent Klco	NRR/DSSA/SPSB
Joseph Birmingham	NRR/DRIP/RPRP
Robert Giardina	NRR/DRIP/TSB

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