June 21, 2002

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

REGARDING EARLY SITE PERMIT (ESP) ISSUES

On May 28, 2002, representatives from NEI met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. The meeting was requested by NEI in order to discuss issues related to ESP applications and reviews. Representatives from Dominion Generation (Dominion), Exelon Generating Company (Exelon) and Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) were in attendance.

Enclosure 1 is a list of the meeting attendees. The NRC maintains an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. A copy of the handouts from the meeting are provided as Enclosure 2, and may be accessed through the ADAMS system under Accession Number M021570376. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the handouts located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737 or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

# **ESP Applicant Preparations**

The meeting began with Dominion, Entergy, and Exelon providing a high level overview of the ESP applications for North Anna, Grand Gulf and Clinton sites, respectively. The discussion included a description of the organizational structure and milestones and schedules for the applications. Exelon and Entergy indicated that they were targeting an ESP application date of early summer 2003, and Dominion indicated it was targeting September 2003.

#### NRC Organization for ESP Applicants and Fee Structure

The staff explained its organizational structure for review of the ESP applications and provided the names of the project managers for the safety review and environmental review that were assigned to the respective projects. The staff indicated that each applicant would receive a project number to track preapplication activities. Each applicant expressed interest in pursuing a fee reduction for review of the ESP applications. The staff took an action to provide the applicants with information regarding the process used to request a fee reduction similar to what was pursued for the first few license renewal applications. The applicants also requested that the staff consider whether public outreach meetings that the NRC will hold near the site will be fee-billable.

#### ESP Quality Assurance (QA) Issues

NEI and the staff then discussed QA issues. In a February 22, 2002, letter, (ADAMS Accession Number ML020590120) the staff provided a proposed process for interactions with

the applicants to resolve issues associated with ESP data collection QA as soon as possible. NEI responded to the NRC's proposed process in a May 20, 2002, letter (ADAMS Accession Number ML021680023). During the meeting, NEI explained that a blanket use of an existing operating plant QA program was problematic for several reasons including: QA program and procedures were written specifically for operating plant structures, systems and components, and not for siting studies; organizational differences between operating company and entities exploring ESPs; and intra-company restrictions. NEI then provided an example based on Entergy's ESP application to illustrate the point. The staff indicated that high-level discussions regarding QA for ESP data collection made it difficult for the staff to identify potential issues. The staff stated that although there is no requirement for an NRC preapplication review of an applicant's QA plan, the staff believes that such a review would be beneficial for ensuring that the ESP review is completed in a timely matter. The applicants took an action to consider whether or not to submit a preapplication QA data collection plan, and if such a plan were submitted, what level of NRC review the applicants would request.

# ESP Issues Status Summaries, NRC ESP Review Standard, and Timing of NRC Public Meetings

NEI and the staff then discussed ESP issues status summaries, the development of an NRC ESP review standard, and timing of NRC public meetings. Regarding ESP issue status summaries, the staff stated that they envisioned a process similar to what was used for license renewal to track generic issues associated with an ESP review. The staff and NEI took an action to work out the details of a common database for tracking the resolution of issues and to identify which issues are generic and which are applicant-specific for future meetings. Regarding an NRC ESP review standard, the staff stated that a similar review standard is being developed for power uprates and the purpose of the standards is to consolidate the guidance for the reviews in one place. The staff stated that it hoped to issue an ESP review standard by the end of the year for comment and use. Regarding the timing of public meetings, the staff indicated that it was working toward a public meeting near the announced ESP sites beginning in the fall of 2002 and that it would work with its stakeholders to coordinate this effort.

#### NEI Timeline for ESP Application Reviews

The meeting ended with a discussion of NEI's proposed timeline for ESP application reviews that was provided to the staff in a April 1, 2002, senior management meeting. The staff stated that it was developing an integrated schedule for the ESP reviews based on the ESP applicant submittal dates and that it would provide feedback to NEI by September 2002, on its proposed timeline.

/RA/

Joseph M. Sebrosky, Senior Project Manager New Reactor Licensing Project Office Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

Enclosures: As stated

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**EPoteat** 

SBrock

**JHeck** 

ACRS/ACNW

RidsOgcRp

# Meeting With the Nuclear Energy Institute May 28, 2002

# **Attendance List**

# **NRC**

James Lyons, NRR/NRLPO
Joe Sebrosky, NRR
Jerry Wilson, NRR
Nanette Gilles, NRR
Stephen Koenick, NRR
John Tappert, NRR
Barry Zalcman, NRR
Thomas Kenyon, NRR
Jim Wilson, NRR
Bob Prato, NRR
Tom Foley, NRR
Tomy Cerne, Region I
Jerry Blake, Region III
Ron Gardner, Region III

Chuck Paulk, Region IV Leta Brown, NRR Kamal Naidu, NRR Goutam Bagchi, NRR Jack Cushing, NRR Charles Hinson, NRR Kaz Campe, NRR See-Meng Wong, NRR Edwin Fox, NRR

Rich McIntyre, NRR Jay Lee, NRR Mike Cheok, NRR Ellen Poteat, OCFO Sara Brock, OGC Jared Heck, OGC

# **Nuclear Energy Institute**

Ron Simard Russ Bell Mitch Singer

# **Other Interested Attendees**

Kevin F. Borton, Exelon Nuclear Joe Sweeney, Exelon Generation Thomas P. Mundy, Exelon Nuclear

George Zinke, Entergy Mike Bourgeois, Entergy Joe Hegner, Dominion Spencer Semmes, Dominion

Steve Routh, Bechtel Lane Hay, SERCH Bechtel

J Guy Cesare Jr, Enercon Services Bob Evans, Enercon Services Doug Whitson, Enercon

Doug Whitson, Enercon Don Chapman, CH2M Hill Amy Lientz, CH2M Hill

Roger Huston, Licensing Support Services

Jenny Weil, McGraw Hill Deann Raleigh, LIS, Scientech Don Cleary, Cleary Assoc.

Edward Burns, Washington Group International

Charles Brinkman, Westinghouse Eva Eckert Hickey, Battelle PNNL B.P. Singh, Department of Energy

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