

November 6 , 2002

TO: DOCUMENT CONTROL DESK

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON LICENSE RENEWAL, OCTOBER 22
AND 23, 2002

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program conducted a public workshop on October 22 and 23, 2002, in the NRC's auditorium in Rockville, Maryland, to solicit stakeholders comment which will lead to enhancement of the license renewal application in a manner that provides the most efficient review by the staff. Over 110 persons attended the workshop, including industry representatives, staff reviewers, supporting contractors, and public interest and state representatives, and discussed lessons learned in the license renewal process. A list of the meeting attendees is included in Enclosure 1. A copy of the staff presentations is included in Enclosure 2. Enclosure 3 includes handouts from presentations made by Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) representatives.

Day one of the workshop, Tuesday, October 22, focused on issues related to safety reviews for license renewal. The participants discussed ways to enhance the license renewal application format to provide more efficient review by the staff and enhance public confidence. The staff and industry have mutual goals to maintain quality and timeliness. Noted, was the NRC's commitment to reduce the license renewal process from 25 to 22 months. Besides the initial construction and operating licenses, license renewal is the most significant action the NRC has undertaken for the life of these plants.

Presentations were made by the NRC staff on the license renewal application format, lessons learned from license renewal application submittals, the electrical cable aging management programs, the interim staff guidance (ISGs) process, revisions to the generic aging lessons learned (GALL) report, the standard review plan for license renewal (SRP-LR), and the industry document NEI 95-10 "Industry Guideline for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 54 - The License Renewal Rule." The staff also provided observations from license renewal inspections. A representative from Dominion Nuclear presented industry proposals on (1) the License Renewal Application Chapter 2 and 3 formats, and (2) the definition of the phrase "consistent with GALL." The purpose was to develop a standard format and content of license renewal applications for future applications. A follow-up public meeting has been scheduled for November 6, 2002, to further discuss this proposal. NEI plans to submit its proposed application format for staff review by the end of the year. A representative from the Carolina Power & Light Company made a presentation on NEI's view of the electrical cable programs. A representative from Exelon Nuclear made a presentation on NEI's view of 10 CFR 54.4(a)(2) Scoping Criteria. Open discussions were held on all of these topics.

Day two of the workshop, Wednesday, October 23, focused on issues related to environmental reviews for license renewal. Presentations were made by the NRC staff about the review process, the format and content of public meetings, the scope of severe accident management alternatives (SAMAs) assessments, threatened and endangered species consideration and the timing of applications, and refurbishment. Through a presentation, a TetraTech NUS representative proposed areas in the NRC's guidance that could be reassessed, given changes in the power market and lessons learned, and proposed that a less prescriptive SAMA review by the NRC could fulfill its NEPA responsibilities. The presentation suggested that the level of detail involved in the current SAMA reviews appears to be more commensurate with the level of detail of safety reviews under the Atomic Energy Act. Open discussions were held on all of these topics. NRC plans to revisit the GEIS for License Renewal (NUREG-1437), in upcoming years, and earlier resolutions of the SAMA issues. The NEI representative suggested that further discussions may be warranted after its task force considers the issues raised; the NRC staff agreed. The session closed at noon.

The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to obtain information, ask questions, and make comments and suggestions for NRC consideration. To ensure that all of the ideas raised during the workshop are considered, the meeting was transcribed. Enclosure 4 is the transcript of the workshop proceedings.

A draft of this summary was provided to NEI to allow them the opportunity to comment on the contents of its input prior to the summary being issued.

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