

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.

/RA/

Raj K. Anand, Project Manager
License Renewal Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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RLEP RF

R. Anand

E-MAIL:

PUBLIC

J. Johnson

W. Borchardt

D. Matthews

F. Gillespie

RidsNrrDe

R. Barrett

E. Imbro

G. Bagchi

K. Manoly

W. Bateman

J. Calvo

C. Holden

P. Shemanski

H. Nieh

G. Holahan

H. Walker

S. Black

B. Boger

D. Thatcher

G. Galletti

C. Li

J. Moore

R. Weisman

M. Mayfield

A. Murphy

W. McDowell

S. Smith (srs3)

T. Kobetz

R. Assa

C. Munson

RLEP Staff

A. Thadani

C. Julian

R. Gardner

M. Farber

M. Modes

J. Vora

M. Kotzalas

**LICENSE RENEWAL WORKSHOP
ATTENDANCE ROSTER- OCTOBER 22 AND 23, 2002**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Reza Ahrable	Entergy
Roger B. Ruclar	Entergy
Winston Liu	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
P.T. Kuo	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
B.J. Van Sant	OPPD
Paul Shemanski	NRC/NRR/DE
Rani Franovich	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Michael LeBaron	Envirocone of Utah
Steven Dort	FENOC-Beaver Valley
Rooney Wilfred	APS-Palo Verde
Greg Hatchett	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Jim Strishna	NRC/NRR/DE
Duc Ngoyen	NRC/NRR/DE
Peter Balmain	NRC/NRR/DIPM
Garry G. Young	Entergy
Bob Weisman	NRC/OGC
D. Dudinet	NRR/NRR/DSSA
Erach Patel	Exelon
Sarah Colpo	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Jim Medoff	NRC/NRR/DE
Vincent Klco	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Talmage Clements	CP&L
Roger Newton	NMC
Michael Heath	CP&L
Michael Stroud	Entergy
Patrick Burke	NMC
JoAnn Sperber	NEI
Sam Miranda	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Douglas Johnson	NMC
Cornelius Holden	NRC/NRR/DE
Jon Hornbuckle	Southern Nuclear
Jeff Muberhill	Southern Nuclear
Dominic So	NMC-Palisades
Todd Anselmi	Wolf Creek NOC
David Solorio	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Carey W. Fleming	Winston & Strawn
Y.C. (Renee) Li	NRC/NRR/DE
F.X. Tazrot	NRC/RES
Richard Grumbir	AEP-D.C. Cook
C.Y. Li	NRC/NRR/DSSA
David Wilson	RG&E
Stuart Thickmad	Dominion
Rick Buckley	Entergy

Al Paglia	SCE&G
Pat Patnaik	NRC/NRR/DE
Steven Pope	Constellation
Kevin Coyne	NRC/NRR/DIPM/IEHB
Jan Fridrichsen	SNC
Mike Macfarlene	SNC
Willie Jennings	SNC
John Meyer	TXU Electric
Fred Polaski	Exelon
Don Shaw	Constellation Energy Group
Alfred W. Maass	Framatone-ANP
Jane M. Grant	PPL Susquehanna
Neill Howey	Nuclear Safety Group
Charles Willbanks	Sciencetech
Alan Nelson	NEI
Dan Burgess	Inservice Engineering
Peter J. Kang	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Pete Mazzafesso	Constellation Energy Group
Arnold Lee	NRC/NRR/DE
Rie Nakamura	Japan.NUS
Russ Arrighi	NRR/DRIP/RLEP
George Herrick	RG&E
Roger Stewart	CP&L
Greg S. Galletti	NRC/NRR/DIPM/IEHB
Fred Iny	Entergy
Eric Blocher	Parsons
Kamal Naidu	NRC/NRR/DIPM/IEHB
Gary M. Adins	TVA
Dave Flyte	PPL Susquehanna
Jerome S. Fields	PPL Susquehanna
Bill Watson	Dominion
Omid Tabatabai	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Raj Auluck	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Muneo Kida	Janus
Sam Lee	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Paul Aitken	Dominion
Charles Meyer	Westinghouse
Alan Cox	Entergy
Joseph Pairitz	NMC
Goutam Bagchi	NRC/NRR/DE
Rabin Assa	NRC/ACRS
Dan Sharn	Environcare
Stewart Bailey	NRC/NRR/DE
Russ Wells	Constellation Energy Group
Terry Grebel	PG&E
Denise Wolniak	Constellation Energy Group
J.E. Knorr	NMC
Pete Wolfinger	License Renewal Services Corp
Steve Hoffman	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP

David Lach	Entergy-Pilgrim
John Tappert	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Amar Pal	NRC/NRR/DE
Sik-Mitra	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Don Woodlan	STARS
Tony Greene	Constellation
Ernest Taormina	Constellation
William Burton	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
TJ Kim	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
K. Manoly	NRC/NRR/DE
Jit Vora	NRC/RES
Paul Amico	SAIC
Sunil Weerakkody	NRC/NRR/DSSA
John Rycyna	Constellation Energy Group
Jim Lazenick	NRC/NRR/DE
Richard Gallagher	Dominion
Karen Patterson	TetraTeun Nus
Steven Dort	FENOC-Beaver Valley
Stephen Sumner	Carolina Elec. & Gas
Alfred Maass	Framatone
Robert Palla	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Chip Cameron	NRC/OGC
Amy Greene	Southern Nuclear
Carlos Navame	NRC/RES
Rich Emch	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Jose Arroyo	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Frederick Cabrena	NRC/NMSS
Jim Meyer	ISL
John Carlson	American Electric & Power
Martin J. O'Neill	Winston & Strawn
Carla Logan	Constellation Nuc Services
Jim Davis	Southern Nuclear
Thomas Kenyon	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Bill Maker	Exelon
Jose Cuadrado	NRC/NMSS
Dan Stenger	Ballard SPAHR
Stacey Fox	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Jose Calvo	NRC/NRR/DE
Alvin Henry	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP
George Wrobel	RG&E
Diane Jackson	NRC/NRR/DSSA/SPLB
David Ritter	Public Citizen/CMEEP
Philip Richardson	Westinghouse
Raj Anand	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RLEP

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Project No. 690

cc:

Mr. Joe Bartell
U.S. Department of Energy
NE-42
Washington, DC 20585

Ms. Christine S. Salembier
Commissioner
State Liaison Officer
Department of Public Service
112 State St., Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Mr. Alan P. Nelson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I St., N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708
APN@NEI.ORG

Mr. Stephen T. Hale
Florida Power & Light Company
9760 S.W. 344 St.
Florida City, FL 33035

Mr. William Corbin
Virginia Electric & Power Company
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. Frederick W. Polaski
Manager License Renewal
Exelon Corporation
200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

George Wrobel
Manager, License Renewal
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
1503 Lake Rd.
Ontario, NY 14519

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Ronald B. Clary
Manager, Plant Life Extension
V.C. Summer Nuclear Station
Bradham Blvd.
P.O. Box 88
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Mr. Robert Gill
Duke Energy Corporation
Mail Stop EC-12R
P.O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

Mr. John B. Herman
Manager - Nuclear Licensing
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
Post Office Box 550
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

Mr. Paul Gunter
Director of the Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th St., NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Hugh Jackson
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy &
Environment Program
215 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mary Olson
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Southeast Office
P.O. Box 7586
Asheville, NC 28802

Talmage B. Clements
Manger - License Renewal
Nuclear Engineering Services
CP&L
410 South Wilmington St.
Raleigh, NC 27602