

December 24, 2002

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2002, WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) TO DISCUSS NEW REACTOR LICENSING ISSUES

On November 5, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and management met with representatives from NEI. The meeting was requested by NEI as a follow-up to previous meetings held on April 1 and July 15, 2002, between industry and NRC senior management. The following meeting topics were discussed: (1) the latest version of the integrated schedule of new plant activities; (2) goals for completing early site permit (ESP) interactions; (3) information on the plant parameter envelope (PPE) approach; (4) quality assurance requirements; (5) status of Part 52 process issues; and (6) items related to inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC). Representatives from Dominion Generation (Dominion), Exelon Generating Company (Exelon), and Entergy Operations, Incorporated (Entergy) were in attendance. A list of attendees is provided as Enclosure 1. The meeting agenda is provided as Enclosure 2.

NEI provided handouts during the meeting which can be accessed through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). This system provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The handouts mentioned above may be accessed through the ADAMS system under Accession No. ML023230117. 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.

Integrated Schedule of New Plant Activities

NEI distributed the latest version of the integrated schedule dated November 5, 2002, (available in meeting handouts mentioned above) which contains milestones for activities associated with regulatory infrastructure, ESP applications, combined license applications, and pre-application reviews. NEI stated that the schedule reflects dates they have received from new reactor licensing applicants. NRC encouraged NEI to consider updating the schedule to show licensing reviews in order of priority.

Status of Early Site Permit Activities

NEI provided the status of generic ESP issues by presenting an updated listing of the Issues Tracking System. NEI explained that the tracking system was developed to ensure that the most important issues with the highest priorities are being addressed upfront. NRC suggested that NEI include a new column to present a projected resolution date in the tracking system. NEI reported that they have established a three meeting rule which encourages all involved parties to find resolution to ESP issues after the third meeting. NEI stated that the goals for

ESP applicants include the following: (1) achieving resolution; (2) discussing technical details; and (3) using real examples.

NEI provided the definition of the Plant Parameter Envelope (PPE) as the set of postulated design parameters that are expected to bound the characteristics of a reactor or reactors that might later be deployed at a site. NEI suggested that future NRC guidance pertaining to ESP activities include the PPE criteria in the standard review process. NRC encouraged NEI to provide more details presenting how bounding parameters were selected. NEI presented the PPE worksheet for choosing bounding values (available in the meeting handouts mentioned above).

NRC mentioned that the staff is in the process of developing a program to determine the acceptability of design parameters. NEI indicated that they want NRC to decide if the PPE approach will be a viable approach. NEI stated a significant amount of work has been completed on the PPE approach which will provide all the information needed for the ESP application. NEI stated that a white paper on the PPE approach will be submitted to NRC on December 20, 2002.

NEI explained that the information developed in the PPE can be used in the safety evaluation and the environmental impact statement. NEI believes that ESP applicants will be able to meet timeliness goals and progress through reviews without any significant delays. There were questions regarding how NRC plans to review an ESP application without plant design information. NEI stated that it would be helpful if NRC developed a nominal NRC review timeline for the review of the ESP applications.

There was discussion about quality assurance requirements and NEI explained that ESP applicants are committed to implementing effective quality processes. With respect to Inspection Manual Chapter 2501 which references Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, NEI stated that applicants intend to submit quality process information but do not plan to meet the full Appendix B requirements. NRC stated that ESP applicants are not required to have a 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B program.

ITAAC Implementation Process

NEI presented the path forward for the ITAAC implementation which includes resuming discussion on white paper topics, establishing a framework for NRC inspection guidance, and identifying and resolving policy issues. NEI requested that a SECY be developed on ITAAC implementation.

NEI presented a schedule for Part 52/ITAAC process priorities (available in the meeting handouts mentioned above). NRC mentioned that setting realistic goals with conclusions and focusing on the sound objectives will lead to the best results.

Summary

- NEI emphasized the need to establish the acceptability of the PPE approach for ESP and alternatives to the quality assurance requirements in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B.
- NEI expressed the need to continue making progress on generic ESP topics and establish a framework for the next level of detail on the ITAAC implementation process.

- NRC pointed out that status of generic ESP interactions tracking system should include a column with dates for projected resolution.
- NRC encouraged NEI to begin a dialogue to address the Commission's September 11, 2002, staff requirements memorandum regarding programmatic ITAAC.
- NRC requested information regarding the PPE applicability to the existing regulatory guidance.

/RA/

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Project No. 689

Enclosures: As stated

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NEW REACTOR MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE - SIGN-IN SHEET

NOVEMBER 5, 2002

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NEW REACTOR MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH NEI
November 5, 2002
Room T-10A1

Introductory Comments

Background

Discussion of New Reactor Licensing Topics

- Status of Early Site Permit Activities
- Significant Issues related to Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria
- 10 CFR Part 52 Process Issues

Opportunity for Public Comment

Adjournment