

April 1, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: William H. Ruland, Director
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: John Boska, Senior Project Manager, Section 1 /RA/
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2003, BETWEEN
THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) STAFF AND
INDUSTRY LICENSING ACTION TASK FORCE

Members of the NRC staff hosted a meeting with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and licensees comprising the Licensing Action Task Force (LATF) on February 27, 2003, at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. This meeting was open to the public. A list of attendees is provided as Attachment 1. Handouts from the meeting are provided as Attachment 2.

The topics discussed included: (1) use of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Cases; (2) reduction of unnecessary regulatory burden; (3) power uprates; and (4) miscellaneous issues. A summary of these discussions is provided below:

1. Use of ASME Code Cases

The NRC staff discussed the NRC's process for approving the use of new code cases by incorporating them into NRC Regulatory Guides. The LATF questioned whether this would be timely enough to meet the industry's needs. The NRC staff believes it is the best process available and will work to improve timeliness. The industry is also evaluating possible alternatives and may decide to pursue rulemaking in this area.

2. Reduction of Unnecessary Regulatory Burden

LATF members discussed the possible use of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Consolidated Data Entry initiative to collect the data currently in the licensee's monthly operating report to the NRC. The goal is to delete the monthly operating report. If successful, Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) item TSTF-369 could be converted to a Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP) item and used as a model for licensees to revise their reporting requirements. NRC staff agreed to continue working with the LATF on this approach.

LATF members discussed possible elimination of the Offsite Review Committee by taking credit for the Onsite Review Committee and other quality-related requirements. The LATF will develop a draft proposal for further discussion with NRC staff.

LATF members discussed the possible relaxation of education requirements for the Shift Technical Advisor (STA) position. See Attachment 2 for more details. The NRC staff agreed to consider this proposal.

The NRC staff discussed the possible elimination of some reporting requirements, especially certain financial reports. Revision of existing rules will be needed.

The LATF members and NRC staff discussed additional items from the LATF table titled "Reduction of Unnecessary Burden Initiative" (see Attachment 2).

3. Power Uprates

NEI indicated they would issue a letter to the industry citing the Cook power uprate application as a good model for measurement uncertainty uprates instead of issuing a white paper or application template (see subsequent letter dated March 21, 2003). NEI will also provide comments on the draft NRC guidance for extended power uprates, RS-001, "Review Standard for Extended Power Uprates."

4. Miscellaneous Issues

LATF members indicated they are not seeing efficiency improvements they expected for license amendments that are similar to precedents which have already been approved by the NRC. They believe that requests for additional information (RAIs) have not been reduced. They asked if the NRC could develop performance measures related to RAIs to provide data on this issue.

LATF members indicated they would like to see more information related to the quarterly NRC fees. They currently receive the list of TAC numbers and total hours charged to each TAC. They would like to see the individuals identified who charged time, or if that is not possible, have the NRC sections or branches identified. They would also like a more frequent update of hours charged, perhaps even accessing real-time data through the NRC web site.

LATF members were of the opinion that the NRC staff should devote more effort to the CLIIP process. They believe it is an efficient way to make changes which apply to a large number of licensees. NEI will schedule a meeting with NRC staff to discuss enhancements to the TSTF/CLIIP process (currently scheduled for April 9, 2003).

NRC staff agreed to look into establishing a section of the NRC web site which would be set up for licensees to use. It would provide easy access to items they are interested in. NRC staff will provide a list of items which were previously on the licensee section of the old web site, and the LATF will provide comments on what they would like to see on the new web site.

Attachments: 1. List of Attendees
2. Meeting Handout

cc w/atts: See next page

Distribution for Summary of Meeting Held on February 27, 2003, Between NRC Staff and Industry Licensing Action Task Force

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DATE	3/31/03	3/25/03	3/31/03	4/1/03

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LICENSING ACTION TASK FORCE MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

LIST OF ATTENDEES

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Donna Skay	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Bill Ruland	NRC/NRR/DLPM
John Boska	NRC/NRR/DLPM
David Jaffe	NRC/NRR/DLPM
David Terao	NRC/NRR/DE
David Fischer	NRC/NRR/DE
Mike Schoppman	NEI
Jim Fiscaro	Duke Energy
Pedro Salas	TVA
Getachew Tesfaye	Constellation Group
Robert Hill	Progress Energy
Patricia Campbell	Winston & Strawn
Nancy Chapman	SERCH/Bechtel
Donald Hoffman	Excel Services
Don Woodlan	STARS
John Hufnagel	Exelon
Scott Bauer	APS
Steve Wideman	Westinghouse
Jerry Burford	Entergy
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