

From: Edwin Hackett, EDO
To: Art Howell; Joseph Donoghue; Robert Haag
Date: 7/21/02 6:44PM
Subject: Info and Proxy

(1) Connie told me late on Friday that the EDO claimed O-16 B4 for Diversity Training all day on July 23. I went ahead and scheduled O-13 B2 for the team all day on the 23rd;

(2) Some thoughts for the team deliberations - some of this may be redundant with your thinking, but since I won't be there:

a) Power of Conventional Wisdom/Mindsets in general;

- circ cracking improbable;
- hot head, dry boric acid won't corrode;
- cracking in VHPs not highly safety significant;
- wastage, even if it occurred, would take a long time (> 6 years) to degrade margins, evidence will be there through leakage well in advance;
- DB was top-performer, not in need of as much oversight as other Rgn III plants

b) Generic Safety Issues - process OK but, as per Joe, how are we capturing new/emerging issues? RES mindset was to close out old, not focused on new. Why was there not a GI on SCC, like we had on Fatigue;

c) RES - theme is that they are reactive - focusing on NRR User needs (probably close to 90% of RES budget). Anticipatory element is therefore difficult to fund and argue for. Their basic charter is confirmatory in nature - should the mix be changed? Not enough focus on recurring events/analysis of operational data - need for new focus - re-org?

Another theme is - lots of good research (by RES and industry) but seems to be sitting on the shelf (e.g., EPRI BA guidance) why not implemented? Is loss of institutional knowledge a contributor?;

d) International Activities - again, a lot of good information in foreign trip reports - also seems to have been put on the shelf. Did distributions include the right people? How do we do better? - suggestion - foreign trip reports go into standardized computer data base (like NRR is now doing with ASME stuff). Database includes information learned, identifies responsible staff and lists required staff actions (if any) with deadlines;

e) High-level/Big Picture - Contribution of NRC "environment" - Combination of greater NRC focus on burden reduction and industry de-regulation acts opposite to safety. Also contributing (distracting?) sometimes is risk-informed regulation in general. Per Steve Long - it seems to have become NRC "heresy" not to be risk-informed and yet sometimes, we simply don't have the data/models to do it well, or to do it at all. Case in point - the cladding analysis going on right now;

f) General issue of follow-up/follow-through on NRC actions, particularly wrt licensee commitments to Generic Communications - where is "trust, but verify?" - recent e-mail - John Z and Brian Sheron.

These are just some I've been thinking on. I'm sure I've also missed plenty. If anything else occurs to me I'll call. Feel free to call me on the cell if you need anything [REDACTED]

Ed

CC: Elaine Raphael; Joelle Starefos; Patrick Castleman; Ron Lloyd; Russ Bywater; Thomas Koshy

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