



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 23, 2003

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE
TO DISCUSS NRC's IMPROVED PROCESS FOR REVIEWING
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

On August 27, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff (the staff) met with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and utility representatives to provide an overview of the improved license renewal application (LRA) review process and to obtain feedback from interested stakeholders. Enclosed is the meeting agenda (Enclosure 1), the list of meeting attendees (Enclosure 2) and the staff presentation (Enclosure 3).

The NRC's public meeting notice, dated August 14, 2003 (ADAMS Accession Number: ML032260253), had indicated that two subjects would be discussed: (1) the improved process for reviewing license renewal applications and, (2) the number of LRAs that the staff would be able to simultaneously review. However, the discussion of Item 2 was deferred until a later time when more information on the subject is available.

The staff's presentation provided a forum for an in-depth discussion of the improved LRA review process. The following bullets highlight some of the more pertinent comments:

- One of the main purposes of the improved LRA review process is to enable the staff to conduct simultaneous reviews of a larger number of LRAs
- One of the main goals of the improved LRA review process is to achieve optimum effectiveness and efficiency that can be gained with utilizing the Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) Report
- The improved review process will be used to perform the LRA reviews for the next set of incoming applications (Farley, ANO-2 and D.C. Cook) and will be adjusted, if needed, based on this experience
- The improved review process maintains the goal of a 22-month schedule for each LRA review (for uncontested application)

The staff's presentation emphasized that the improved process is structured to have early and frequent staff/applicant contacts to identify questions and acceptable resolutions earlier than in the traditional review process. The improved process utilizes a Project Team to perform audits of those portions of LRA that are consistent with the GALL Report and perform reviews of those areas that are consistent with previously approved staff positions. The staff stated that two or three site visits are expected by the Project Team as part of its review process. The improved review process also makes provisions for other staff reviewers to conduct optional site visits to make their reviews more effective and efficient. Most of these site visits will be technical working sessions aimed at obtaining clarification to support the LRA reviews. It is anticipated that these face-to-face meetings will expedite clarifying staff questions and therefore make the LRA reviews more effective and efficient.

The staff recommended that applicants provide a reviewer's aid (i.e., a cross reference table) identifying those aging management reviews/aging management programs (AMRs/AMPs) that are based on previously approved LRAs. Having a reviewer's aid will make the staff review more effective and efficient by focusing the Project Team's resources in expeditiously reviewing those items that had been approved in previous LRAs, and thus allowing the technical staff to focus on those more technically challenging or plant-unique issues.

During closing remarks, NEI and the utility representatives agreed that the improved process appeared reasonable and that they would be willing to support it during its pilot implementation. The staff further agreed that it would consider holding future meetings with stakeholders to discuss lessons learned and potential changes to the improved LRA review process. NEI indicated that they would provide any additional written feedback on the improved LRA review process by mid-September 2003.

If you have questions, please contact Kurt Cozens at (301) 415-4104, or koc@nrc.gov.



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License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No.: 690
Enclosures as stated

cc w/enclosures: See next page

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Project No. 690

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**AGENDA
NEI MEETING WITH NRC STAFF
IMPROVED LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS
AUGUST 27, 2003**

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|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Opening | 1:00 - 1:15 p.m. |
| 2. | Objectives | 1:15 - 1:20 p.m. |
| 3. | Improved License Renewal Review Process | 1:20 - 4:10 p.m. |
| 4. | Public Participation | 4:10 - 4:25 p.m. |
| 5. | Closing | 4:25 - 4:30 p.m. |

Enclosure 1

**ATTENDANCE LIST
NEI MEETING WITH NRC STAFF
IMPROVED LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS
AUGUST 27, 2003**

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Bob Kalinowski	ASD	Mark Lintz	NRC
Peter Mazzaferro	Constellation	Tilda Liu	NRC
John Ricywa	Constellation	Cliff Munson	NRC
Bill Watson	Dominion	Quynh Nguyen	NRC
Alan Cox	Entergy	Jonathan Rowley	NRC
Natalie Mosher	Entergy	Ram Subbaratnam	NRC
Michael Stroud	Entergy	Jacqwan Walker	NRC
Garry Young	Entergy	Steve West	NRC
Al Fulvio	Exelon	Talmage Clements	Progress Energy
Massoud Tafazzolt	Framatome	Nancy Chapman	Search/Bechtel
Deann Ralieggh	LIS, Scientech	Tim Abney	TVA
Gregory Twachtman	McGraw Hill	Kathryn Sutton	Winston Strawn, LLP
Fred Emerson	NEI	Todd Anselmi	Wolf Creek
James Knorr	NMC		
Darrel Turner	NMC		
Raj Anand	NRC		
William Burton	NRC		
Ken Chang	NRC		
Mario Cora	NRC		
Kurt Cozens	NRC		
Bill Dam	NRC		
Yvonne Edmonds	NRC		
Rani Franovich	NRC		
Frank Gillespie	NRC		
Steve Hoffman	NRC		
Lisa Jenkins	NRC		
Peter Kang	NRC		
Thomas Kenyon	NRC		
TJ Kim	NRC		
P T Kuo	NRC		
Brian Lee	NRC		
Sam Lee	NRC		



IMPROVED PROCESS
for
LICENSE RENEWAL SAFETY REVIEWS

NRR/DRIP/RLEP

OBJECTIVES:

- **To provide an overview of the improved LRA review process**
- **To obtain support from pilot plant applicants and industry in implementing the improved process**

WHY CHANGE?

- To better manage NRC staff resource loading associated with future LRA submittal schedule
- To achieve optimum effectiveness and efficiency that can be gained with utilizing the GALL Report

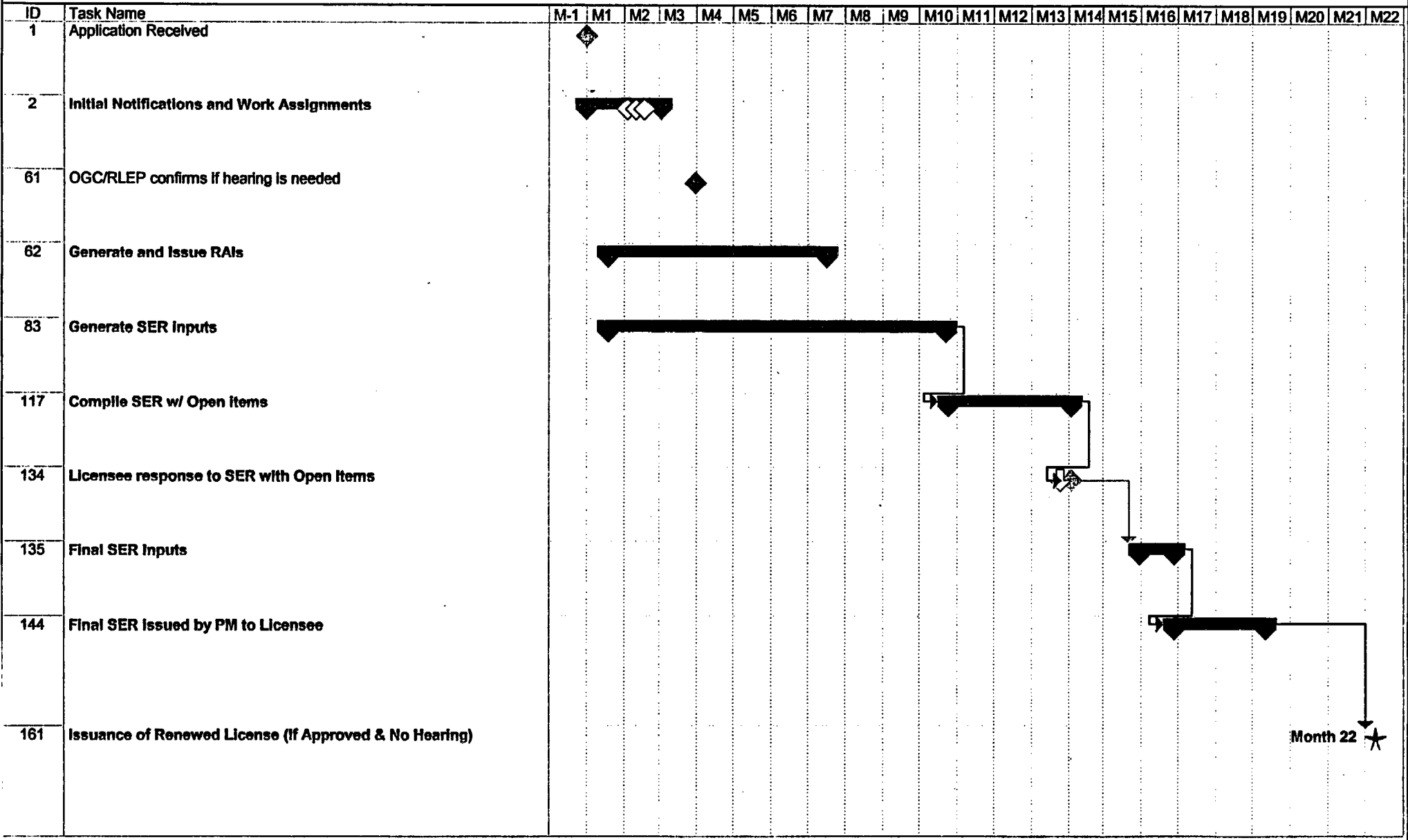
WHAT'S CHANGED?

Key LRA Review Activities	Process Change
Identification of SSCs requiring AMR in scope of LR	Early and frequent interactions with applicant to address staff questions and RAIs
Review of AMR/AMP consistent with GALL	Conduct site audits (Project Team)
Review of AMR/AMP consistent with previous staff position	Reviewed by Project Team
Review of AMR/AMP <u>not</u> consistent with GALL & TLAAs	Early and frequent interactions with applicant to address staff questions and RAIs
Issue SER with Open Items	No process change.
Issue License (if approved)	No process change.

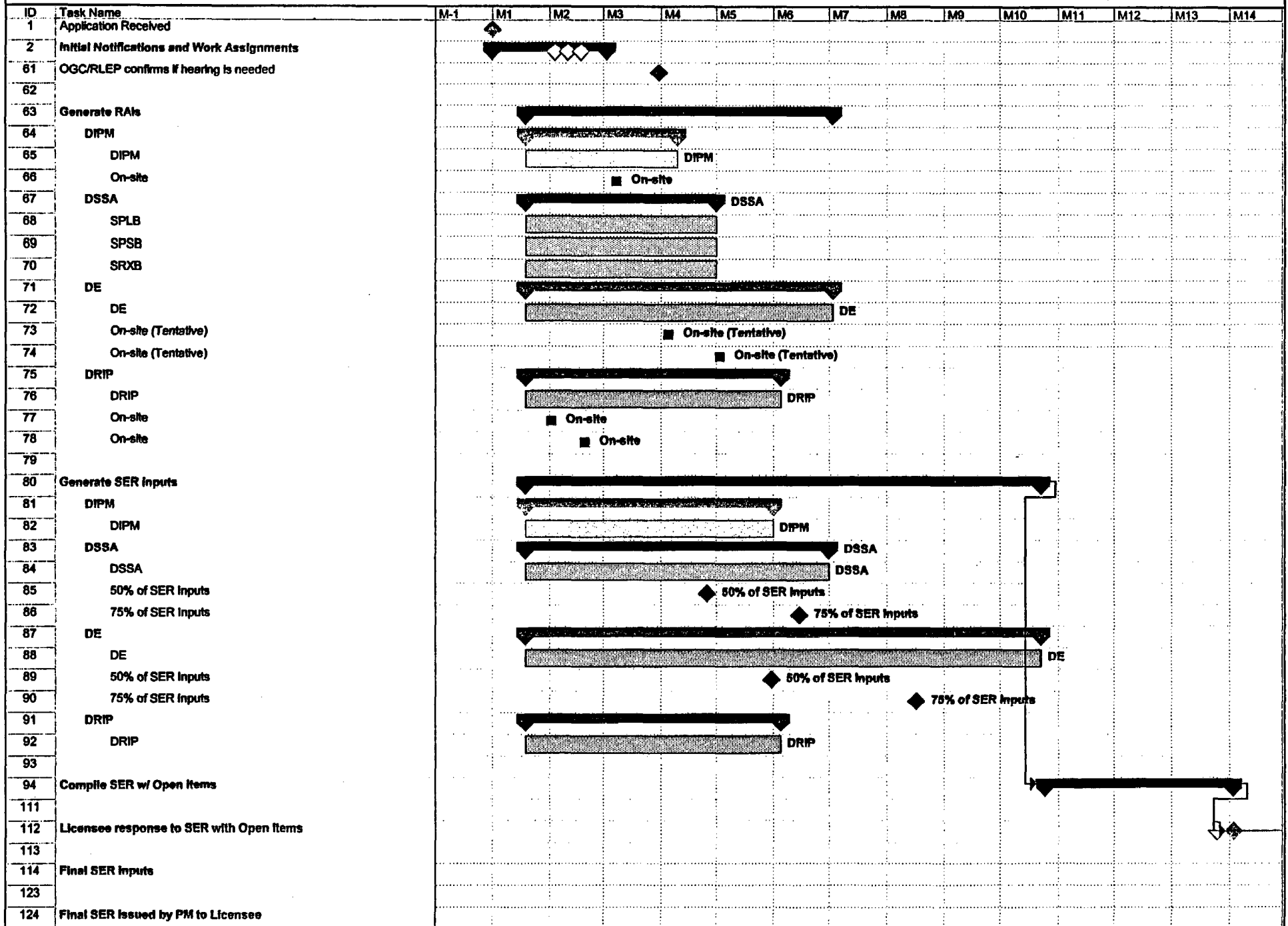
KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

- **Format/content of the LRA consistent with standardized format**
- **LRA to identify AMPs & AMRs consistent with GALL**
- **Applicant to identify those items that were previously approved by the staff**
- **Applicant fully supports on-site audits and site visits**
- **Timely/complete responses to staff questions and RAIs**

Improved License Renewal Review Process



Improved License Renewal Review Process (Representative Model)



PILOT REVIEWS

- Pilot for the improved process - Farley, ANO-2, and D.C. Cook
- Reevaluate the process to incorporate the lessons learned from the pilot plant reviews

LR PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- GALL update
- Interim Staff Guidance
- Update Guidance Documents

FEEDBACK

- Pilot plant support for improved LRA review process
- Industry's comment on improved LRA review process