

September 20, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert Gramm, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Bo Pham, Project Manager, Section 2 /RA/
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF AUGUST 31, 2004, SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING
WITH THE BOILING WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP (BWROG)
(TAC NO. MB5757)

On August 31, 2004, senior management from the BWROG met with the staff to exchange updates and feedback on various ongoing activities related to boiling water reactor plants. The previous BWROG/NRC senior management meeting was held on March 4, 2004. A copy of the slide presentation is available in ADAMS (Accession No. ML042570197). An attendance list is provided as an attachment.

Mr. William Borchardt, Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), provided opening remarks, highlighting NRR's current effort to balance nuclear reactor safety versus security, developments with rulemaking activities, and on-going success of the license renewal process. Dr. Brian Sheron, Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis, also added comments regarding the staff's effort in implementing lessons-learned from Davis-Besse, which will entail a greater level of staff involvement in managing licensees' commitments.

The meeting continued with a discussion about the status of four BWROG topical reports (TRs) currently under staff review, one of which (NEDC-33046, dealing with containment isolation valve allowed outage time) has been issued in draft format. The staff next addressed the status of technical specification task force (TSTF) changes, specifically TSTF-357, which proposes the revision to the safety limit minimum critical power ratio (SLMCPR). The staff recently met with the BWROG to discuss this topic and will provide the BWROG additional feedback by letter regarding its current position on TSTF-357.

The BWROG then provided an update presentation of industry's current effort regarding BWROG extended power uprates (EPUs). This presentation was a high-level summary of the one given to the staff at a public meeting on August 18, 2004. In addition to reiterating the staff's concerns brought forth during that meeting, Dr. Sheron also provided feedback to industry regarding NRC's current view that the generation of loose parts could potentially lead to other safety concerns, and that an understanding of the failure mechanism, i.e., steam dryer crack propagation, is necessary. The BWROG understood the staff's concern and indicated

that it will look further into a predictive model for component failure due to flow-induced vibration. The staff indicated that it will also engage the BWR Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) and Exelon to better understand the instrumentation being deployed for the replacement dryer at Quad Cities.

In the next discussion, the BWROG provide an overview of its recent TR submittal regarding the separation of loss of off-site power (LOOP) from the large break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) in the licensing basis. The BWROG emphasized the level of effort that has been put forth in this endeavor, and requested that the NRC provide management sponsorship in the review process to ensure a timely review. The staff indicated that it understood the BWROG's concern, and that it will strive to meet the current schedule, however, resources for TR review must constantly be balanced with other licensing activities, which sometimes could impact a TR review schedule.

The BWROG's next presentation entailed a summary of the TSTF-357 and industry's position on relocating the SLMCPR from the TS to a licensee-controlled document. The summary outlined the history of this topic and the proposed resolution at the last BWROG/NRC meeting on July 20, 2004. The staff agreed to formally document its concerns on TSTF-357, while continuing to work with industry to resolve technical details. The BWROG also agreed to develop interim SLMCPR submittal templates to facilitate the staff's review process.

A representative of the BWROG's recently formed Combustible Gas Control Rule Implementation Committee then gave an overview presentation to the staff, outlining the background, purpose, and scope of the committee's work to support licensees in implementing the combustible gas control amended rule. Since the staff is currently not fully aware of the specific implementation problems faced by industry, the BWROG has agreed to submit its draft design requirements for hydrogen-oxygen monitoring replacement equipment for NRC's review.

The BWROG's final presentations were related to the TR review process. The BWROG suggested an improvement to the existing process, which has, on some occasions, delayed scheduled reviews due to lack of NRC resources. The staff indicated that while it understood the BWROG's concern, NRC staff resources are finite and will need to be allocated based on priorities. However, the staff did note that an early look at the BWROG's schedule for submission (up to one year ahead), would help better facilitate allocation of resources and possibly improve the review process.

At the meeting's conclusion, the NRC staff thanked the BWROG for bringing forth its concerns and issues. Action items resulting from this meeting are as follows:

- The staff will engage the BWRVIP and Exelon to better understand the instrumentation being deployed for the replacement dryer at Quad Cities.
- The BWROG will submit its draft design requirements for hydrogen-oxygen monitoring replacement equipment for NRC's review.
- The staff will formally document its concerns of TSTF-357 via letter to the BWROG.

R. Gramm

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The next senior management meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2004.

Project No. 691

Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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cc w/att: See next page

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AUGUST 31, 2004

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A. Wrape
J. Meister

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L. Collins
J. Weil
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B. Sheron
B. Pham
H. Berkow
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L. Rossbach
C. Douth
S. Dembek
R. Lobel
W. Reckley
F. Akstulewicz
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D. Fischer