

November 18, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Cathy Haney, Program Director
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Joseph L. Birmingham, Project Manager \RA\
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 2, 2004, MEETING WITH NUCLEAR
ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) ON MATERIAL DEGRADATION
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

On November 2, 2004, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) senior management met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute and industry in a public meeting at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. At this meeting, industry presented information on the status of its material degradation management program. The meeting attendees are listed in Attachment 1. Information presented by industry at this meeting is in attachment 2 (ADAMS Accession Number ML043220014).

After introductions, Alex Marion, of NEI, presented an overview of the material degradation program. Mr. Marion stated that industry had dedicated approximately \$60 million to the program and that the majority of this money was allocated to research a variety of degradation related areas such as new methods for nondestructive examinations (NDE), boiling water reactor vessels, boric acid corrosion, nickel-based alloy cracking, and chemistry control. Mr. Marion stated that industry would provide a more detailed list of the projects as a followup to the meeting. He introduced Robin Dyle, Southern Nuclear Corporation, who presented a draft Material Degradation Matrix (DM). The DM is an organized framework for integrating and coordinating various industry research programs as well as industry operating experience on degradation mechanisms. The information in the matrix will be used to identify high-priority actions to be taken by industry with respect to the management of materials degradation issues.

The staff commented favorably on the matrix and asked several questions on its use. The staff particularly asked how the matrix would be used to determine appropriate inspection processes and to make recommendations to facilities for implementation of actions. Industry explained that, as inspection regimes were identified, they would be disseminated to industry as good practice, recommended inspections, or as mandatory inspections. Each level of action recommended has a greater required need of implementation. Industry said it would provide a copy of the draft matrix to the NRC and asked that the NRC provide any comments it had on the matrix (see Attachment 2).

The NRC asked how the industry degradation management program interacts with other industry organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) on code cases and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). Industry indicated that the program works with ASME by providing information it develops to Code Committees but does not have any greater role than other participants. INPO acts as an independent audit of the utilities implementation of recommendations that evolve from the program. The NRC also asked if the program has interactions with nuclear groups outside the United States to share

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information and to broaden the database on degradation. Industry indicated that it had established relationships with several groups to share relevant information and that the program evaluated that information where applicable.

The staff indicated that the meeting had been beneficial in keeping the NRC informed of the material degradation program's progress in managing degradation. Industry said it would like to continue having such meetings periodically. The staff and industry then answered questions from the public and adjourned the meeting.

Project No. 689

Attachments: As stated

cc: w/atts: See list

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Attachments: As stated

cc: w/atts: See list

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DOCUMENT: G:\...\JBirmingham\Msum-new\MSUM NEI MDP 11-02-04.WPD

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**List of Attendees for November 2, 2004
Meeting with NEI on Material Degradation Program**

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Carl Paperiello	RES
Brian Sheron	NRR
Rich Barrett	NRR/DE
Michael Mayfield	RES/DET
Ted Sullivan	NRR/DE/EMCB
Terence Chan	NRR/DE/EMCB
Wallace Norris	NRR/DET/MEB
Debbie Jackson	RES/DET/MEB
Joe Muscara	RES/DET/MEB
Andrea Lee	RES/DET/MEB
Nilesh Choksi	RES/DET/MEB
Ken Karwoski	NRR/DE/EMCB
Stephanie Coffin	NRR/DE/EMCB
Matthew Mitchell	NRR/DE/EMCB
Keith Wichman	NRR/DE/EMCB
Bill Cullen	RES/DET/MEB
Joe Birmingham	NRR/DRIP/RPRP
Makuteswara Srinivasan	RES/DET/MEB
Alex Marion	NEI
Jim Riley	NEI
Robin Dyle	SNC/NEI
Charles Brinkman	Westinghouse
Alex Amerman	Numark Associates
Daniel Horner	McGraw Hill
Mike Schoppman	Framatome ANP

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ESullivan (TSullivan)
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