

December 19, 2005

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF LICENSE RENEWAL MEETING BETWEEN THE
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) STAFF AND THE
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) LICENSE RENEWAL WORKING
GROUP

On November 8, 2005, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) License Renewal Working Group met with management and staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), to discuss generic license renewal topics and license renewal process improvements. The meeting agenda is contained in Enclosure 1. Attendees are listed in Enclosure 2. The handouts used at the meeting can be viewed through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) using Accession No. ML053390018. A brief summary of the major discussions at the meeting are as follows:

C NRR reorganization

The NRC staff described the Office of Reactor Regulation (NRR) reorganization and its impact on license renewal. The staff also discussed future resource challenges as NRR grows to support demands of license renewal and new reactor licensing. With the increased work load, the staff is finding ways to streamline processes to increase efficiency that would benefit the NRC as well as the industry. The staff indicated that it is receptive to suggestions from the industry.

C Status of pressurized thermal shock (PTS) rulemaking

The NRC staff discussed the plans to revise the pressurized thermal shock (PTS) rule (10 CFR 50.61). NRR identified some outstanding issues related to the technical basis. The issues are identified in a meeting summary for a meeting that was held on October 22, 2005, with the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) to discuss the resubmittal of WOG Topical Report WCAP-16168, "Risk-informed Extension of Reactor Vessel Inservice Inspection Interval." The meeting summary can be viewed through ADAMS using Accession No. ML052910162. In addition, draft NUREG-1806 is scheduled to be issued in January 2006 and the new guide on embrittlement correlation is scheduled to be issued in March 2006 by RES.

C Current license renewal application review process

The NRC staff presented its generic license renewal application audit and review schedule. The schedule of the onsite audit is based on a 8-month schedule with a 10-month window. The staff reiterated that the audit schedule is aggressive and emphasized the need for the industry to continue supporting its audits.

The NRC staff also touched on the possibility of staggering its review of the license renewal application (LRA) for the Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee plants to be submitted in January 2006. Entergy had requested that the NRC utilize the same team for the review of both LRAs. A separate meeting was subsequently held with Entergy on November 30, 2005, to discuss this subject.

The NRC staff also indicated that the audit and review reports are public documents and will be distributed to the stakeholders. All previously issued audit and review reports are available in ADAMS.

C License renewal application status

a. Nine Mile Point

The applicant indicated the onsite audit went smoothly. The amount of time spent on preparing for the audit team provided the opportunity for the program owners to learn more about their programs. The applicant indicated that this was a win-win situation.

b. Beaver Valley

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) presented the updated status for the Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) License Renewal Project. FENOC indicated that it will submit the new license renewal application for BVPS in February 2007.

C Review of license renewal trends and concerns as identified by industry

NEI requested that the staff provide its objectives/purposes regarding LRA sufficiency review. The staff indicated that this subject should be discussed further with NEI during the monthly telephone conference calls.

During the monthly telephone conference calls, there will also be a discussion of any lessons learned from the on-site audits.

NEI is concerned at the different level of review depth among the audit teams. The staff indicated that it is considering guidance on the level of detail and expectations for the onsite audit. The staff also indicated that it welcomes both formal and informal feedback from the industry.

NEI noticed an increasing trend in petitions from external groups for license renewal. The staff indicated that the majority of these petitions are associated with emergency planning and security at nuclear power plants. The staff indicated that the NRC is taking an active role in explaining, to different governmental entities and the public, its rules and regulations.

NEI indicated that communication of technical issues with stakeholders needs improvement. Specifically, there was concern about NUREG-1801 aging management programs XI.E4 and XI.E6. The staff had previously discussed this issue with NEI during a telephone conference call on September 29, 2005. A summary of this telephone conference call can be viewed through ADAMS using Accession No. ML052920587.

C Public participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

/RA/

Linh N. Tran, Project Manager
License Renewal Branch C
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 690

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

C Public participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

/RA/

Linh N. Tran, Project Manager
License Renewal Branch C
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Adams Accession Numbers.:

1. Note to: NEI w/Encls 1, 2, Svc. List: **ML053540029**
2. Slides: Beaver Valley Run Station and Generic License Renewal Application Audit and Review Schedule: **ML053390018**
3. Pkg: **ML053540034**

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OFFICE	PM:RLRC:DLR	PM:RLRC:DLR	LA:RLRA:DLR	BC-RLRC:DLR	DD: DLR
NAME	LTran	SHoffman	YEdmonds	JZimmerman	P.T. Kuo
DATE	12 /07/05	12 /12/05	12 /07/05	12 /12/05	12 /19/05

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Note to: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) from Linh N. Tran, Dated: December 19, 2005

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DLR RF

E-MAIL:

RidsNrrDrip

RidsNrrDe

G. Bagchi

K. Manoly

W. Bateman

J. Calvo

R. Jenkins

J. Fair

RidsNrrDssa

RidsNrrDipm

D. Thatcher

R. Pettis

G. Galletti

C. Li

K. Winsberg (RidsOgcMailCenter)

R. Weisman

M. Mayfield

A. Murphy

S. Smith (srs3)

S. Duraiswamy

Y. L. (Renee) Li

RidsNrrDirRlra Staff

RidsNrrDirRlrb Staff

C. Julian

M. Modes

J. Vora

L. Kozak

T. Mensah

OCA

OPA

PMNS

AGENDA
MEETING BETWEEN THE NRC STAFF AND
THE NEI LICENSE RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

1. Introduction
2. Status of pressurized thermal shock rulemaking
3. NRR reorganization
4. Current license renewal application review process
5. Resource conflicts - license renewal and new reactors
6. License renewal application status
 - a. Nine Mile Point
 - b. Beaver Valley
7. Review process for guidance documents
8. Review of license renewal trends and concerns as identified by industry
9. Public participation
10. Conclusion

ATTENDANCE LIST
NRC LICENSE RENEWAL MEETING
WITH THE NEI LICENSE RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

PARTICIPANT

Frank Gillespie
Jake Zimmerman
Louise Lund
Gregory Cranston
Johnny Eads
Amy Hull
Linh Tran
Kiyoto Tanabe
Bob Hardies
Cayetano Santos
Peter Kang
Adam Wilson
Randy Hutchinson
Alan Cox
Bill Corbin
Paul Aitken
Bob Vincent
Joe Pairitz
Brian Wohlers
Steven Schellin
Massoud Tafazzoli
Bob Kalinowski
Paul Crawley
Michael R. Fallin
Bruce Rash
Fred Polaski
David Kunsemiller
Stephen T. Hale
Johnathan Hinze
Vitay M. Nilekani
Yasuaki Hashikura
Kazandou Sakmoto
Kathryn Sutton
Alex Marion
James Ross
Bill Victor
Dave Bremer
Michael Detamore
Mike Heath
Chalmer Myor
Tom Greene
Kenneth Bruue
Todd Anselmi
Eric Blocker

ORGANIZATION

NRC/NRR/ADRO/DLR
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NRC/NRR/ADRO/DLR
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NRC/NRR/ADRO/DLR/Foreign Assignee
NRC/NRR/ADES/DE
NRC/ACRS
NRC/RES
NRC/RES
Entergy
Entergy
Dominion
Dominion
NMC – Palisades
NMC – Monticello
NMC – Duane Arnold
NMC LLC – PBNP
AREVA
AEP/D.C. Cook
Arizona Public Service – STARS
Constellation Energy
Exelon
Exelon
FENOC
FP & L
IAC
IAC
JNES
JNES
Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius, LLP
NEI
NEI
NPPD
NPPD
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
PGN
SNC
Southern Company
TVA
Wolf Creek Nuclear Op. Corp.
Worley Parsons

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Project No. 690

cc:

Mr. Joe Bartell
U.S. Department of Energy
NE-42
Washington, DC 20585

Ms. Christine S. Salembier Commissioner
State Liaison Officer
Department of Public Service
112 State St., Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Mr. James Ross
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I St., N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. William Corbin
Virginia Electric & Power Company
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. Frederick W. Polaski
Manager License Renewal
Exelon Corporation
200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Peter A. Mazzaferro
Site Project Manager - License Renewal
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC
P.O. Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mark Ackerman
Project Manager, License Renewal
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 4
Route 168 (Mail Stop BV-SGRP)
Shippingport, PA 15077

Mr. Paul Gunter
Director of the Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th St., NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Hugh Jackson
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy &
Environment Program
215 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mary Olson
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Southeast Office
P.O. Box 7586
Asheville, NC 28802

Talmage B. Clements
Manager - License Renewal
Progress Energy
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, NC 27602

Mr. Garry G. Young
Manager, License Renewal Services
1448 SR 333, N-GSB-45
Russellville, AR 72802

Mr. William Crough, Manager
Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35609

Mr. James E. Knorr
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

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Project No. 690

cc:

Patrick Burke
License Renewal Project Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

Robert A. Vincent
Licensing Lead - License Renewal Project
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043