

January 20, 2006

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF LICENSE RENEWAL TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF
AND THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE LICENSE RENEWAL TASK
FORCE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) License Renewal Task Force held a telephone conference on December 20, 2005, to discuss generic license renewal topics, lessons learned from the audit process, and license renewal process improvements. Participants in the conference call are listed in the Enclosure. A summary of the discussions follows:

1. New issues under development within the NRC that may affect license renewal

The NRC staff has potentially identified the need for Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) addressing corrosion of boiling water reactor, Mark I, drywell steel containment shells. The current Generic Aging Lessons Learned Report does not provide guidance when the drywell shell is surrounded by a concrete structure with a narrow distance between the steel shell and the surrounding concrete, inhibiting inspection. As previously agreed with NEI, the staff is identifying this issue early in the process to enable interested stakeholders to provide input to the determination of the need for an ISG, and if so, the content of the ISG. The staff and NEI agreed to schedule a public telephone conference or meeting to discuss this issue further.

2. Lessons learned from recent safety review audits

As agreed to at the November 8, 2005, meeting (ADAMS Accession Number ML053540034), a regular agenda item for the monthly telephone conferences or meetings is for the staff and applicants to discuss lessons learned from recent safety review audit activities. This discussion will provide real-time feedback to applicants entering the audit phase for their applications or for use by future applicants. NRC staff observations and the discussions that followed included:

- a. To improve preparation for the audits and to maximize the effectiveness of the time the audit team spends onsite. The team leader will visit the plants shortly after the receipt of the application to assess the onsite documentation and readiness for the audits. These plants visits were originally conducted for the pilot plants receiving the new audit process.

- b. The staff suggested that applicants preparing for audits visit plants that were recently audited and had a good onsite documentation and preparation for the audit. This will allow the applicant to benchmark their own preparation for audits. The staff agreed to provide a list of plants that previously had a good audit preparation and onsite documentation. NEI indicated that it will develop a standard audit preparation for the content of onsite documentation which it will be provided to the staff for review. This topic will be discussed in the next telephone conference.
- c. Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee license renewal applications are scheduled for submittal in January 2006, the audit teams will review time-limited aging analyses (TLAAs). Currently, TLAAs are reviewed by headquarters staff.
- d. The audit teams indicated that some applicants have taken credit in their applications for TLAAs managing aging effects. However, the audit team has found in a number of occasions when reviewing onsite documentation that the TLAAs did not adequately address management of the aging effect.

3. Acceptance review guidance

During the November 8, 2005, a meeting was held to discuss and develop a short guidance document to better describe the criteria used by the NRC staff in performing its acceptance review for docketing. The staff indicated that the regulatory requirements for the acceptance review are contained in the "Acceptance Review Checklist for Docketing of Timely and Sufficient Renewal Application," Table 1.1-1, in the "Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants," NUREG-1800, Revision 1. The staff had previously provided a feedback to the industry in a letter to NEI dated April 29, 2005 (ADAMS Accession Number ML051190496) on areas observed where improving the content of applications would reduce the requests for additional information and to improve the efficiency of the review process. However, the list of information contained in the letter is not the acceptance review checklist. NEI agreed to develop a one-to-two page guidance document for the acceptance review and submit it to the NRC for future discussion.

4. Incorporating the scoping and screening review into the audit process

Another action item from the November 8, 2005, meeting is for the NRC staff and industry to assess the potential benefits and process changes needed to perform the scoping and screening review of an application using onsite audits, similar to the aging management review audits. The goal would be to obtain further efficiencies in the process and help the staff manage its application review workload. The staff has just initiated its assessment of the feasibility and benefits of this change. The staff and NEI will discuss the results of this assessment in future telephone conferences or meetings as progress is made.

5. The next monthly telephone conference will be scheduled for January 2006.

/RA/

Stephen T. Hoffman, Senior Project Manager
License Renewal Branch B
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Project No. 690

Enclosure:
As stated

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5. The next monthly telephone conference will be scheduled for January 2006.

/RA/

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Note to: Organization: Nuclear Energy Institute from Stephen T. Hoffman, Dated: January 20, 2006

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THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) STAFF AND THE
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) LICENSE RENEWAL TASK FORCE

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TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL BETWEEN THE
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DECEMBER 20, 2005

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Enclosure

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