

February 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Eileen McKenna, Chief
Financial, Policy and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Richard Dudley, Senior Project Manager */RA/*
Financial, Policy and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS PROPOSED RULE
ON RISK-INFORMED CHANGES TO LOSS-OF-COOLANT ACCIDENT
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS (10 CFR 50.46a)

On February 16, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 3 public meeting on the proposed rule to add a risk-informed alternative to §50.46 (LOCA redefinition). Approximately 40 people attended, primarily industry and staff. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure stakeholders had a clear understanding of the NRC's intent and interpretation of the proposed rule so that subsequent written comments would not result from misunderstandings.

The staff provided an overview of the rule, described the important features and encouraged stakeholders to formally submit constructive comments, such as alternative approaches that would achieve the underlying purposes of the rule. Most of the questions concerned the scope and extent of the risk-informed integrated safety performance (RISP) assessment process, operational constraints and the mitigation capability for breaks larger than the transition break size. In addition, there were concerns that all future licensing action requests would become risk-informed amendments causing an increase in licensee and staff resources to manage license amendments, and that the threshold for a "minimal increase" in risk would be so low that a large number of licensing actions that might otherwise be made under §50.59 would have to be submitted for staff review and approval. There were several other comments and questions about implementation details, many of which will need to be addressed during guidance development.

The comment period for the proposed §50.46a closes on March 8, 2006. A list of meeting attendees is provided in Enclosure 1. Presentation slides used by the NRC staff are provided in Enclosure 2.

Enclosures:

- (1) List of Attendees
- (2) NRC presentation slides

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