

August 21, 2006

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
CALL AND MEETING HELD 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 public telephone conference call and meeting on July 27, 2006, to discuss generic license renewal topics, lessons learned from the audit process, and license renewal process improvements. Enclosure 1 provides a listing of the conference call participants. Enclosure 2 contains the agenda for the conference call. A summary of the discussions follows:

1. Response to NEI letter re. 10 CFR 54.37(b)

NEI submitted a letter dated March 8, 2006, regarding implementation of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 54.37(b) and the applicability of the backfit rule (10 CFR 50.109) (ADAMS Accession No. ML060750262). A meeting was held on April 26, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML061810299), to discuss the NEI letter and the NRC staff's position. The staff indicated that its goal is to respond to NEI's letter by August 31, 2006.

2. Endorsement of severe accident mitigation alternatives (SAMA) guidance

The staff summarized the discussion of the SAMA review guidance from the June 28, 2006, NEI meeting and asked if a follow-up meeting is needed. NEI responded that a follow-up meeting was not needed and that the SAMA review guidance was adequate. NEI will work to educate future applicants on lessons learned with respect to the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) and Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (Vermont Yankee) license renewal applications (LRAs) and the associated requests for additional information.

3. Response to NEI letter on acceptance reviews

This topic was discussed in the June 28, 2006, meeting between the NRC staff and NEI. The staff agreed with the key points made in NEI's June 16, 2006, letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML061670254) and, as agreed, the summary of the June 28, 2006, meeting (ADAMS Accession No. ML062340020) will document the staff's response to NEI's letter.

4. Lessons learned from recent safety review audits

Audits and public exit meetings were performed for the Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee LRAs. The audits included review of scoping and screening methodology, aging management programs (AMPs), aging management reviews, and time-limited aging analyses (TLAAs). Staff observations from these audits are as follow:

- A. It is highly beneficial to make the audit question and answer data base publicly available. The public is interested in knowing what topics are being discussed between the NRC and the applicants.
- B. The scope of the audit exit meetings does not appear to always be what the public expects. Members of the public wanted to hear more discussion of issues and any controversy between the NRC staff and the applicant, not just the result of the audits. NRC will assess how it conducts these meetings in the future.
- C. Applicant's senior management involvement in the audits helps assure the success of the audit and the public meeting.
- D. Neither the Pilgrim or Vermont Yankee LRAs contained a commitment to provide an AMP for electrical cable connections as described in XI.E6 of the Generic Aging Lessons Learned Report (NUREG-1801). The need for this program has been discussed on a generic basis in past meetings and telephone calls between the staff and NEI. NEI is preparing a position paper on this subject that will be submitted in the future.
- E. Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee are the first two LRAs for which the audit team had primary responsibility for reviewing TLAAs. The staff found that this change in the process was beneficial. Through the onsite audits, the staff can better understand the original plant design calculations, including fatigue analyses and any updates or revisions.

5. Public participation

No members of the public participated in the meeting.

/RA/

Stephen T. Hoffman, Senior Project Manager
License Renewal Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 690

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4. Lessons learned from recent safety review audits

Audits and public exit meetings were performed for the Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee LRAs. The audits included review of scoping and screening methodology, aging management programs (AMPs), aging management reviews, and time-limited aging analyses (TLAAs). Staff observations from these audits are as follow:

- A. It is highly beneficial to make the audit question and answer data base publicly available. The public is interested in knowing what topics are being discussed between the NRC and the applicants.
- B. The scope of the audit exit meetings does not appear to always be what the public expects. Members of the public wanted to hear more discussion of issues and any controversy between the NRC staff and the applicant, not just the result of the audits. NRC will assess how it conducts these meetings in the future.
- C. Applicant's senior management involvement in the audits helps assure the success of the audit and the public meeting.
- D. Neither the Pilgrim or Vermont Yankee LRAs contained a commitment to provide an AMP for electrical cable connections as described in XI.E6 of the Generic Aging Lessons Learned Report (NUREG-1801). The need for this program has been discussed on a generic basis in past meetings and telephone calls between the staff and NEI. NEI is preparing a position paper on this subject that will be submitted in the future.
- E. Pilgrim and Vermont Yankee are the first two LRAs for which the audit team had primary responsibility for reviewing TLAAs. The staff found that this change in the process was beneficial. Through the onsite audits, the staff can better understand the original plant design calculations, including fatigue analyses and any updates or revisions.

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No members of the public participated in the meeting.

/RA/

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL AND MEETING HELD
BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF
AND THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

July 27, 2006

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ENCLOSURE 1

Teleconference Agenda
Between the U.S. NRC Staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute

July 27, 2006

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
1. Response to NEI letter re. 10 CFR 54.37(b)	NRC
2. Endorsement of severe accident mitigation alternatives guidance	NRC
3. Response to NEI letter on acceptance reviews	NRC
4. Lessons learned from recent safety review audits	NRC/NEI
5. Public participation	All

ENCLOSURE 2

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Project No. 690

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Summary of Meeting from Stephen Hoffman dated August 21, 2006

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AND MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION STAFF AND THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE LICENSE
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