

September 22, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Michelle C. Honcharik, Project Manager **/RA by HCruz for/**
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF AUGUST 10, 2006, OPEN MEETING WITH THE
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) TO DISCUSS RADIOACTIVE
LIQUID DISCHARGES FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
(TAC NO. MD0229)

On Thursday, August 10, 2006, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of the NEI at NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of industry's implementation of the groundwater protection initiative at all sites. A list of attendees is enclosed.

The NRC staff met with the NEI, licensee representatives, several members of the public, and media to discuss groundwater contamination at nuclear power plants. During the meeting, the NEI stated that all sites had established an action plan and had completed the NEI questionnaire on historical spills and leaks. Licensee representatives provided additional information on the plans and questionnaire at their respective sites.

The NRC staff provided feedback to industry on the results of an initial staff review of the action plans and questionnaire responses. The NRC staff noted that the action plans for about half of the sites had not been approved by licensee management and a little more than half of the plans had significant items missing that were specified in the NEI guidance. The NEI staff noted management approval was provided for implementation of these plans through the approval of the industry initiative in a May 5, 2006, industry meeting with the Chief Nuclear Officers.

The NEI presented the following actions at the meeting. The NEI plans to collect and evaluate baseline information, action plans, and communications protocols; participate in the Electric Power Research Institute – NEI industry workshop on groundwater monitoring in September 2006; initiate peer assessments and benchmarking; conduct a lessons-learned workshop with NRC and other stakeholders in January 2007; and issue final implementation guidance in March 2007.

There was significant attendance by the public at the meeting. Comments received by the public included a lack of public involvement in the development of the industry initiative and the

fact that public interest groups were not included in the communication protocol for State and local officials. Public Meeting Feedback forms were not received.

At the meeting, the NEI provided the NRC staff with meeting slides, "Industry Groundwater Protection Initiative Status Update" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML062220608).

At previous public meetings, several members of the public inquired if the chapter which describes the design and operation of radioactive waste systems for operating reactors of the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR), could be made publicly available. Since then, the NRC staff has been able to provide several interested parties with a CD that includes this chapter for most of the plants. During the meeting, some participants questioned why the information is being provided only upon request and is not being made available through the ADAMS or by a separate posting on the NRC web page. The NRC staff did explore the feasibility of posting the FSAR chapters via ADAMS or the web page and decided it was not cost-effective due to the wide variations in electronic file structures used for the various FSARs. Options considered to allow posting the chapters included editing the large number of electronic files or printing the files and then scanning the paper copies to create compatible electronic files. The NRC staff decided it was more efficient to copy the existing files to a CD, inform the public of the availability of the information, and provide the CD upon request. A CD with this chapter for most of the operating nuclear power plants is available on request by sending an email to sxs11@nrc.gov.

Interested members of the public were invited to participate in this meeting via a toll-free teleconference.

Project No. 689

Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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| Date | 9/22/06 | 9/12/06 | 9/11/06 | 9/22/06 |

**Public Meeting with Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
Discussion of Tritium Discharges from Nuclear Power Plants
August 10, 2006
Meeting Attendees**

| Name | Organization |
|--------------------|---|
| Sara Bernal | NRC |
| Ralph Cady | NRC |
| Mike Case | NRC |
| Doug Coe | NRC |
| Tim Frye | NRC |
| Steve Garry | NRC |
| Jon Hopkins | NRC |
| Steve Klementowicz | NRC |
| Adam Nielsen | NRC |
| Thomas Nicholson | NRC |
| Stacie Sakai | NRC |
| Elizabeth Thompson | NRC |
| Jon Thompson | NRC |
| Susan Uttal | NRC |
| Dave Lochbaum | Union of Concerned Scientists |
| Mike Franklin | Progress Energy |
| Ellen Anderson | First Energy |
| Ralph Andersen | NEI |
| Jay Thayer | NEI |
| James Breeden | Dominion |
| Paul McNulty | Entergy |
| Zigmund Karpa | Exelon |
| Bill Wendland | American Nuclear Insurers |
| Cindy Folkers | Nuclear Information and Resource Services |
| Jarret Adams | NEI |
| Larry Haynes | Duke Energy |
| Mark Rigsby | Progress Energy |
| Steven Dolley | Inside NRC/Platts |

Nuclear Energy Institute

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