

September 14, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Keith McConnell, Ph.D, Deputy Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Rafael L. Rodriguez, Project Manager **/RA/**
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ROUTINE MEETING WITH INDUSTRY GROUPS AND
AGREEMENT STATES TO DISCUSS DECOMMISSIONING LESSONS
LEARNED

On August 3, 2006, staff from the Decommissioning Directorate in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards met with representatives from the Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum, Nuclear Energy Institute, and the Electric Power Research Institute to discuss the progress on the efforts to capture, preserve, and disseminate decommissioning lessons learned, to make a decision on the long-term option the working group will use to manage the lessons learned, and to establish a transition plan into the second phase of this joint effort with industry groups and Agreement States. A representative from the Department of Energy also participated in this meeting. A summary of the meeting and the names of the participants is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the summary notes, please feel free to reach me at 301-415-0193, or via e-mail at RLR1@nrc.gov.

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SUMMARY OF ROUTINE MEETING WITH INDUSTRY GROUPS AND AGREEMENT STATES TO DISCUSS DECOMMISSIONING LESSONS LEARNED

August 3, 2006

Participants:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC): Rafael L. Rodriguez, Andrew Persinko, Amir Kouhestani, Keith McConnell, Marie Miller

Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum: John Conant

Nuclear Energy Institute: Felix M. Killar, Clifton Farrell

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI): Michael Naughton

Department of Energy (DOE): Alexander Williams

Mr. Rodriguez started out the meeting discussing some of the accomplishments achieved by the working group as well as some items from the February 1, 2006, meeting. Some of the accomplishments are: (1) publication of a preliminary bibliography of lessons learned documents, and (2) dissemination of the concept of the joint effort between the NRC, industry groups, and Organization of Agreement States at the 2006 Waste Management Conference in Arizona earlier this year. Some of the items from the previous meeting were: (1) the status of the current efforts to capture and preserve decommissioning lessons learned, and (2) current process to manage and preserve the information.

The group then discussed some issues that have arisen since the last meeting, such as who will be responsible for owning and managing lessons learned provided by: (1) a person or entity outside the working group, (2) documents generated by industry, (3) lessons obtained from experience in the field, which have not been formally documented, and (4) the need to focus on retrievability of records. Mr. Conant stated that people who post lessons on the web should be responsible for their content. The working group could use several threads to screen those lessons before they are posted on the web. Ms. Miller talked about her experience with reactor vessel segmentation, and how she supports Mr. Conant's idea. Mr. Kouhestani pointed out the approach used by the DOE to disseminate the information under their lessons-learned program, which included a template for the lesson, contact information of the web administrator, etc. Mr. Williams discussed the report from the General Accounting Office regarding the decommissioning of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado, and lessons learned from this experience. He suggested contacting Mary McCune to get additional information on the lessons learned program, since she used to be the program manager a few years ago.

Mr. McConnell suggested pursuing a more aggressive approach with the dissemination of decommissioning lessons learned, for example, some means of communication in order to inform people about the lessons-learned webpage and its content. The current approach is passive. Mr. Williams discussed the different types of facilities that NRC regulates beyond nuclear reactors and fuel cycle facilities, such as laboratories and universities, and mentioned that these facilities could provide valuable lessons to be learned. In addition, Mr. Williams suggested that the staff take a look at decommissioning events or incidents reported to the NRC Response Center. Mr. Naughton mentioned that EPRI has developed over 100 reports that

discuss decommissioning lessons learned. These reports are considered proprietary information. Mr. Rodriguez asked if there was a way that EPRI could share some information from the reports without compromising their commercial value. For example, EPRI could review selected reports and identify the issues that facilities need to address in order to facilitate decommissioning, without detailed information about technical solutions. Mr. Naughton stated that he would be willing to explore that possibility, but EPRI management would have to make the final decision. Mr. Persinko mentioned that the NRC working group is devoting significant time to reviewing and extracting the lessons learned, and he questioned whether other participating agencies and industry groups would be also willing to spend time on such task. Mr. Killar mentioned that it would be more beneficial to have multiple database systems rather than just one. NRC would provide the primary database, and other organizations will have their own systems, with NRC providing the links to these other databases. Mr. Conant stated that the Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum does not have the capabilities to develop a lessons learned webpage. In this case, NRC would be the repository for all the decommissioning lessons learned from the Forum. Mr. Conant mentioned that, based on his experience writing papers on lessons learned, he does not expect a huge amount of documents from the Forum, on an annual basis. Mr. Williams suggested considering other groups (i.e., industry, government agencies, etc.) that could contribute to this effort. Finally, the working group needs to evaluate the benefits of withholding proprietary information against the value added by sharing such information.

Summary of Actions:

- Mr. Naughton will coordinate within EPRI to review specific reports that address decommissioning lessons learned.

- Mr. Williams will talk to Mary McCune to check her availability for any assistance she can provide on lessons learned.

- Mr. Rodriguez will talk to the NRC's Office of Information Services regarding the development of a lessons learned database system.

Objectives for the Next Meeting:

- Reach consensus on specifics related to the approach, responsibilities, and assigned tasks to begin capturing and documenting decommissioning lessons learned.