

September 24, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: William F. Kane  
Deputy Executive Director for Reactor  
and Preparedness Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Stephen J. Campbell, Senior Operations Assistant */RA/*  
Technical and Regional Programs Section  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JUNE 19, 2007, CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING  
WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE TO DISCUSS ITEMS  
OF A MUTUAL INTEREST CONCERNING NUCLEAR ISSUES

On June 19, 2007, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) senior managers met with members of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to discuss nuclear-related issues. The meeting took place at NRC headquarters, located in Rockville, Maryland. The public was invited to attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a Senior Managers Meeting (SMM) on a periodic basis, to improve communications and timely resolution of issues.

The discussions included:

- (1) Priorities and Areas of Focus Regarding:
  - New plants (finalizing rules and applicable guidance, including digital instrumentation and control (I & C));
  - Security rulemakings;
  - Risk-informed activities;
  - Appropriate use of probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs); and
  - Fire protection implementation (including National Fire Protection Association Standard 805 (NFPA 805)).
- (2) Anticipated Efforts or Activities:
  - Emergency Preparedness rulemaking;
  - Working group on radiation safety, low-level waste, and environmental protection; and
  - Closure of open issues.
- (3) Potential Improvements to Increase Transparency and Effectiveness Regarding:
  - The rulemaking process;
  - Implementation of the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR);

- The reactor oversight process (significance determination process, and cross-cutting issues); and
- Efficient resolution of concerns from operating experience.

After brief opening remarks, NEI and NRC managers discussed the following issues regarding Priorities and Areas of Focus:

- (1) The need to develop a rationale associated with conducting criminal background checks for access authorization to nuclear plants. NEI managers discussed efforts to prepare an associated guidance document (NEI-06-06), which will be sent to the NRC for review.
- (2) The simulator operator training for using Digital I & C systems and the potential for open dialogue with the members of the Digital I & C Steering Committee.
- (3) The new reactor construction inspection program and the new PRA requirement for new reactors. There was mention that assessing severe accident mitigation had helped with evaluating the environmental impact statement for new reactor construction.
- (4) The status of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 73, "Physical Protection of Plants and Materials." NEI managers mentioned that they had filed their comments on the rule. NEI managers recommended that an NEI/NRC working group be formed to develop the regulatory guides.
- (5) A structured and systematic process for risk-informed activities by improving the use of PRAs, significance determination process, and Regulatory Guide 1.200, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities." NEI and the NRC managers expressed a need for quarterly staff interactions in this area.
- (6) A priority was placed on implementation of NFPA 805 and how to resolve recurring fire protection circuit analysis issues. The senior managers discussed the concern regarding nuclear plant operators using excessive manual actions to compensate for fire protection deficiencies. Manual actions are described in NUREG 1852, "Demonstrating the Feasibility and Reliability of Operator Manual Actions in Response to Fire." NRC action is needed when there are concerns regarding licensee fire protection compliance strategies. The longstanding issue of spurious circuit actuations, including focusing this issue on the licensee's capability to achieve safe shutdown, circuit analysis, and cable wrapping.

The NEI and NRC managers discussed the following issues in the area of Anticipated Efforts or Activities:

- (1) Emergency Preparedness rulemaking and associated guidance and the need to increase in NRC outreach within the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Additionally, managers discussed the emergency classification timeliness and methods to improve communication between licensees and the NRC during the drills.

- (2) NEI working groups on radiation protection, low-level waste management, and environmental protection were created to consider industry views, positions, and future activities in these areas. Both groups recognized significant international efforts, including observing construction of a new reactor design, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) efforts, and improving International Committee on Radiation Protection standards.
- (3) Generic resolution of issues associated with the industry's responses to circumferential cracking of a pressurizer spray line, Generic Safety Issue-191, "Experimental Studies of Loss-of-Coolant Accident-Generated Debris Accumulation and Head Loss with Emphasis on the Effects of Calcium Silicate Insulation (NUREG/62-6874)," and grid reliability. NEI managers said they will develop a template by late July that licensees will use to transmit their responses to questions regarding the condition of their respective utility's pressurizer spray line. Regarding grid reliability, the NRC managers stated that no temporary instruction will be issued to review the licensee's efforts to address reliability. For the GSI-191 issue, the NRC managers stated that transportability and chemical effects associated with the issue are still being reviewed.

The NEI and NRC managers discussed the following issues in the area of Potential Process Improvements to Increase Transparency and Effectiveness:

- (1) Concerns regarding the rulemaking process. NRC managers stated that the NRC is considering improvements to the rulemaking process.
- (2) The need for the Committee to Review Generic Requirements to take an active role in championing the reinforcement of training and procedure requirements for backfitting. The NRC managers acknowledged receipt of NEI's letter on the topic.

A decision was made to have another Senior Managers meeting in November of 2007.

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees
2. Meeting Handouts
3. Actions from June 19, 2007, NEI SMM

cc w/enclosures:

Those on the Attached List

- (2) NEI working groups on radiation protection, low-level waste management, and environmental protection were created to consider industry views, positions, and future activities in these areas. Both groups recognized significant international efforts, including observing construction of a new reactor design, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) efforts, and improving International Committee on Radiation Protection standards.
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**Public Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)  
Discussion of Items of Mutual Interest Concerning Nuclear Issues  
June 19, 2007  
Meeting Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Luis Reyes	NRC
William Kane	NRC
Martin Virgilio	NRC
Roy Zimmerman	NRC
Gary Holahan	NRC
Michael Johnson	NRC
James Wiggins	NRC
Vonna Ordaz	NRC
Michael Case	NRC
Stuart Richards	NRC
Michelle Schroll	NRC
Leslie Fields	NRC
Tamara Bloomer	NRC
Stephen Campbell	NRC
Jeff Circle	NRC
Terry Reis	NRC
Steve Burns	NRC
Don Cool	NRC
Alan Nelson	NEI
Jim Colgary	NEI
Rod McCullum	NEI
Alex Marion	NEI
Tony Pietrangelo	NEI
Marvin Fertell	NEI

**Public Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)  
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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Tom Houghton	NEI
Doug Walters	NEI
Rob Sisk	Westinghouse
Steven Dolley	Inside NRC/Platts
Gary Vines	EPRI

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NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE TO DISCUSS ITEMS OF A MUTUAL INTEREST  
CONCERNING NUCLEAR ISSUES

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