

PBMR Pre-Application Review

- NRC's pre-application review is guided by the Commission's Advanced Reactor Policy Statement
- PBMR requested that the pre-application activity be focused on white paper submittals
- The intention on both sides is to clarify issues (technical, regulatory, policy) that would be addressed during design certification
- Current meeting is important for process and content of pre-application going forward.

Current Project Status

- PBMR expects to submit design certification application in late 2009
- No domestic utility has indicated interest in the PBMR design
- A demonstration plant is expected to be constructed in South Africa
- NRC has been reviewing four white papers
- PBMR is interested to submit up to 16 more white papers.

Current Review Status

- White papers in hand
 - PRA approach
 - LBE selection
 - SSC classification
 - Defense-in-depth approach
 - Review is treating the set of papers as a package
- Preliminary feedback on the first three has been provided to PBMR and is now in the public domain
- Current meeting is the first opportunity for face-to-face technical discussion
- NRC's principal technical reviewers have been identified.

NRC Considerations

- NRC's highest priority is to support the LWR combined license applications
- Availability of staff to conduct white paper reviews is an important constraint
- Approved budgets show decreasing resource allocation for non-LWR work
- NRC wants to know PBMR's perspective as scope and depth of white paper reviews are determined.

Meeting Mechanics

- Time allocated to cover four white papers
- Staff wishes to hear from PBMR on the most important of the technical issues
- Each period begins with staff identifying key issues, recognizing that PBMR has preliminary feedback
- Staff will seek to ensure key issues are covered, but does not intend to pursue full resolution now
- Recap of discussions to catalogue issues to be addressed in a later NRC communication

Looking Ahead

- A formal communication from NRC will identify the key issues to be addressed in white paper revisions or the design certification application
- Issues unresolved during pre-application may carry over as “open items” to the design certification review if necessary
- Issue resolution most likely for technical issues and most difficult for policy issues
- PBMR’s input is desirable on scope and depth of pre-application activity given resource and schedule constraints.