

April 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Nancy L. Salgado, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support (DIRS)
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)

FROM: Lawrence Vick, Reactor Engineer (Examiner Qualified) **/RA/**
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
DIRS/NRR

SUBJECT: POWER PLANT SIMULATOR 2008 CONFERENCE
TRIP REPORT

On February 27, 2008, you and I participated in the Power Plant Simulator 2008 Conference in Austin, Texas, at the Omni Austin Downtown Hotel. The conference was sponsored by the 2008 International Conference on Simulation Technology for Power Plants under the auspices of the Society for Modeling and Simulation. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for NRC staff to interact with industry and stakeholders on recent staff actions with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Licensed Operator Focus Group (LOFG) regarding nuclear power plant simulator scenario based testing (SBT).

The conference meeting was well attended by more than 100 individuals representing simulation facility licensees from all across the country, as well as others representing nuclear power plant simulator manufacturing and software vendors, and other interested members of the public.

The NRC presentation was well-received, stimulated lively discussion among the attendees, prompted some questions and answers, and helped to facilitate NRR Management's continued efforts to move toward a single industry consensus simulator standard. We emphasized two major points during the presentation:

- NRC agrees, in principle, with NEI's recommendations regarding nuclear power plant simulator scenario based testing. We emphasized the staff's plan to develop a draft regulatory guide that would give consideration to the recommendations and any other issue deemed necessary to clarify our regulatory positions. We also pointed out the public's opportunity for involvement before a final regulatory guide is published. Overall, the attendees were accepting of the simulator SBT recommendations being advocated and were ready to work with NEI during the implementation phase, once approved by the Chief Nuclear Officers.
- NRC staff will continue to work with NEI/LOFG to help facilitate voluntary movement to a single simulator standard. We provided a number of sound reasons for such a movement, including reducing regulatory uncertainty with uniform inspections to one standard. We noted that a proposed new ANS-3.5 standard is currently undergoing public comment resolution and pledged to work to help facilitate its adoption.

In conclusion, we believe the attendees appreciated the NRC's participation in the conference and left with a better understanding of our staff interactions with NEI and its Licensed Operator Focus Group.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Enclosure: As stated (NRC PRESENTATION SLIDES)

In conclusion, we believe the attendees appreciated the NRC's participation in the conference and left with a better understanding of our staff interactions with NEI and its Licensed Operator Focus Group.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Enclosures: As stated

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