



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

April 6, 2007

The Honorable Dale E. Klein  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Klein:

**SUBJECT: SUMMARY REPORT - 540<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, MARCH 8-9, 2007, AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

During its 540<sup>th</sup> meeting, March 8-9, 2007, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed several matters and completed the following reports, letters, and memoranda:

REPORTS:

Reports to Dale E. Klein, Chairman, NRC, from William J. Shack, Chairman, ACRS:

- Assessment of Aircraft Impacts on New Plants, dated March 19, 2007 (Official Use Only)
- Development of the TRACE Thermal-Hydraulic System Analysis Code, dated March 22, 2007

LETTERS:

Letters to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from William J. Shack, Chairman, ACRS:

- Proposed Revision to Standard Review Plan Section 15.9, "BWR Stability," dated March 22, 2007
- Proposed Revision 3 to Standard Review Plan Section 15.0, "Introduction - Transient and Accident Analyses," dated March 22, 2007
- Proposed NRC Staff and Industry Activities for Addressing Dissimilar Metal Weld Issues Resulting from the Wolf Creek Pressurizer Weld Inspection Results, dated March 22, 2007

MEMORANDA:

Memoranda to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from Frank P. Gillespie, Executive Director, ACRS:

- Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing, dated March 14, 2007
- ACRS Review of Regulatory Guides 5.69 and 5.70 Supporting the 10 CFR 73.1 Design-Basis Threat Rulemaking, dated March 9, 2007 (Official Use Only)
- Comments Regarding Staff Review of Thermal-hydraulic Methodologies, dated March 14, 2007
- Proposed Revision to 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," dated March 9, 2007

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ISSUES

1. Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC Staff Action for Dealing with the Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and FirstEnergy to discuss proposed NRC staff and industry activities for addressing dissimilar metal weld issues resulting from the October 2006 inservice inspection of the Wolf Creek pressurizer nozzles. The staff presented an evaluation of the safety significance of the circumferential indications and the implications to other plants with these dissimilar metal butt welds. The results of the analysis performed by the staff revealed that in some cases the flaws may lead to a rupture before any leakage occurs. As a result, the staff has determined that inspections or mitigation activities on these welds at nine plants should be completed by the end of 2007 rather than the spring of 2008. All other plants either do not have these type of welds or will have inspected or performed mitigation activities by December 2007. NEI and FirstEnergy representatives provided the basis for completing the inspections or mitigation activities in 2008 and described an effort to develop an advanced finite element fracture mechanics analysis capability that can provide a more rigorous basis for their arguments. Licensees have committed to complete inspection or mitigation activities by December 2007 if this finite element analysis is unsuccessful at demonstrating leak-before-break. Licensees have also committed to implement enhanced reactor coolant leakage monitoring as a compensatory action in order to ensure timely plant shutdown should leakage occur. The staff stated that confirmatory action letters will be issued in the near future to confirm these commitments. The staff also stated that it is working closely with the industry on the finite element analysis effort such that timely results may be obtained in June 2007.

Committee Action

The Committee issued a letter to the Executive Director for Operations on this matter dated March 22, 2007, supporting the agreement reached between the staff and the industry on the resolution of dissimilar metal weld issues on pressurizer nozzles. The Committee also recommended that the staff encourage the industry to inspect all inspectable dissimilar metal welds on pressurizer nozzles before performing mitigation activities.

## 2. Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss proposed modifications to SRP Section 15.0, "Introduction - Transient and Accident Analyses," and SRP Section 15.9, "BWR Stability." SRP Section 15.0 was revised from the 1996 version to clarify event categories and acceptance criteria based on the current regulations. The changes are meant to cover new reactor designs. Events are now classified into Anticipated Operational Occurrences (AOOs) and postulated accidents. The SRP Section stipulates that it is necessary to demonstrate that AOOs will not escalate into postulated accidents. Anticipated transient without scram (ATWS) is put into a separate class.

SRP Section 15.9 is a new Section and incorporates information that was previously included in SRP Section 4.4. It provides guidance to reviewers on reactor stability issues and ensures compliance with the requirements in General Design Criteria 10 and 12. It applies to both new and existing plants. SRP Section 15.9 provides guidance on acceptance criteria for detection and suppression systems and generic stability problems. The guidance focuses on dealing with density wave oscillations, but reviewers are also expected to ensure that other types of oscillations have been suppressed or are not possible.

### Committee Action

The Committee issued two letters to the Executive Director for Operations on this matter dated March 22, 2007, recommending that revisions to SRP Sections 15.0 and 15.9 be issued.

## 3. Final Results of the Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests Related to the Resolution of the PWR Sump Performance Issues

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss the final results of the chemical effects testing that has been performed to support resolution of GSI-191, PWR Sump Performance. The presentations focused on particular tests investigating the effects of an industry-proposed surrogate debris material, as well as the effects of proposed changes to the chemical buffer material in the containment sump. The NRC staff also described a peer review that was performed to evaluate the overall program and recommend improvements and additional technical issues for consideration. The Committee members provided the staff with several suggestions for further use of the peer-review studies. The staff also presented the results of efforts to improve models of the head loss through debris-laden PWR sump screens, based on experiments performed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

### Committee Action

This was an information briefing. No Committee action was necessary. The Committee intends to review the status of efforts associated with the resolution of GSI-191 in a future meeting.

## 4. Technology-Neutral Licensing Framework and Related Matters

The staff described the framework, or process, for developing new reactor licensing requirements documented in draft NUREG-1860 and published as an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR). The framework provides guidance and criteria for creating a

comprehensive set of risk-derived and performance-based requirements that can be either technology-neutral or technology-specific. The ANPR sought stakeholder input on several technical and policy issues (e.g., level of safety, integrated risk, containment versus confinement). Public comments were generally supportive of the framework, but stakeholders did not want this work to encumber new reactor licensing activities. There were mixed stakeholder views with regard to whether and when the staff should be pursuing technology-neutral versus technology-specific requirements and guidance. The Committee members commented that the framework represented a major advancement in the development of a coherent risk-informed approach to develop regulatory requirements for new reactors.

#### Committee Action

The Committee plans to continue its discussion of the framework document for future plant licensing during a future meeting.

#### 5. Proposed Revisions to Regulatory Guides and Standard Review Plan Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing

The Committee discussed "high-priority" SRP Sections that are being revised or developed in support of new reactor licensing. The Committee noted that it is awaiting receipt of additional high-priority SRP Sections from the staff.

#### Committee Action

The Committee plans to conduct an accelerated review of all SRP Sections that it determines warrants ACRS review.

#### 6. Safeguards and Security Matters (Closed)

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss its work to address a recommendation included in the April 24, 2006 ACRS report on ongoing security-related activities. The staff described the status of an options paper submitted to the Commission, the key information gathered to support this work, and plans for additional research.

#### Committee Action:

The Committee issued a report to the NRC Chairman on this matter dated March 19, 2007, concluding that the staff's planned activities adequately respond to its recommendation.

#### RECONCILIATION OF ACRS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS/ STAFF COMMITMENTS

- The Committee considered the RES response of February 6, 2007, to the October 17, 2006 ACRS letter providing the findings of an assessment of the quality of selected NRC research projects. The Committee decided that it was satisfied with the RES response.

The following commitments will be followed up by the appropriate Offices:

**The staff plans to include a separate section in future research reports to summarize the relevant uncertainties and their treatment.**

**The staff plans to use ACRS comments and observations on a project entitled "MCCI Program at the Argonne National Laboratory" as a guidance for the follow-on MCCI-2 program that is under way.**

#### OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

During the period from February 4, 2007 through March 7, 2007, the following Subcommittee meetings were held:

- Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena Subcommittee - February 27, 2007

The Subcommittee reviewed the final reports related to chemical effects testing that was performed to support the resolution of GSI-191, PWR Sump Performance.

- Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena Subcommittee - February 28, 2007

The Subcommittee reviewed proposed revisions to SRP Section 15.0, "Introduction - Transient and Accident Analyses," and SRP Section 15.9, "BWR Stability."

- Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels Subcommittee - March 6, 2007

The Subcommittee reviewed proposed NRC staff and industry activities for addressing dissimilar metal weld issues resulting from the Wolf Creek pressurizer weld inspection results.

- Future Reactor Designs - March 7, 2007

The Subcommittee reviewed draft NUREG-1860, "Framework for Development of a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Alternative to 10 CFR Part 50," and the associated Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

- Planning and Procedures - March 7, 2007

The Subcommittee discussed proposed ACRS activities, practices, and procedures for conducting Committee business and organizational and personnel matters relating to ACRS and its staff.

#### LIST OF MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE EDO

- The Committee would like to be kept informed of any significant changes made to the SRP Sections, prior to issuing them in final form, listed in the March 14, 2007 memorandum from Frank P. Gillespie, Executive Director, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC.

- The Committee is awaiting receipt of additional high-priority SRP Sections from the staff.
- The Committee would like to be informed of the disposition of issues raised by Ms. Carmen DeLong regarding NRC staff practices in evaluating thermal-hydraulic methods for nuclear reactors.
- The staff agreed to address comments made by the Committee members during the Subcommittee and Full Committee meetings regarding SRP Section 15.9, "BWR Stability."
- The staff agreed to make additional modifications to SRP Section 15.0, "Introduction - Transient and Accident Analyses," to address comments made by the Committee members concerning the types of analyses that would be considered to be "Postulated Accidents" as opposed to "Anticipated Operational Occurrences," and the assumption of a single failure as part of these analyses.
- The Committee plans to continue its discussion of the framework document for future plant licensing during a future meeting.

#### PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE 541<sup>st</sup>ACRS MEETING

The Committee agreed to consider the following topics during the 541<sup>st</sup> ACRS meeting, to be held on April 5-7, 2007:

- Human Reliability Analysis Modes
- Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan Section 4.2, "Reactor Fuels"
- Risk-Management Technical Specification Initiative 4b - Flexible Completion Times
- Format and Content of the ACRS Report on the NRC Safety Research Program
- Meeting with Commissioner Jaczko
- Response to November 8, 2006 Commission SRM Regarding Development of a Technology-Neutral Licensing Framework for Future Plant Designs

Sincerely,



William J. Shack

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William J. Shack

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ADAMS ML070880755

OFFICE	ACRS/ACNW	ACRS/ACNW
NAME	CSantos	FGillespie
DATE	03/29/2007	0406/2007

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Sincerely,

William J. Shack

Distribution:

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ADAMS ML070880755

OFFICE	ACRS/ACNW	ACRS/ACNW
NAME	CSantos	F Gillespie
DATE	03/29/2007	

4/10/07

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Sincerely,

William J. Shack

Distribution:

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ADAMS ML070880755

OFFICE	ACRS/ACNW	ACRS/ACNW
NAME	CSantos CS	FGillespie
DATE	3/29/07	

Letter to The Honorable Dale E. Klein, Chairman, NRC, from W. Shack, Chairman, ACRS  
Dated April 6, 2007.

Distribution for ML070880755

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JPerry	HNourbakshs	BSosa	ZAbdullahi
SDuraiswamy	MJunge	JFlack	DFischer
JLamb			

SMISS

**From:** John Flack  
**To:** Carol Brown  
**Date:** 04/10/2007 7:31:39 AM  
**Subject:** Re: SUNSI Review of the Summary Report for the 540th ACRS Meeting (ML070880755)

Carol: The following ACRS letter report can be released to the general public:

Letter to Chairman Klein from William J. Shack, ACRS Chairman, dated April 6, 2007, Subject: SUMMARY REPORT - 540th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS, MARCH 8-9, 2007, AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

John

>>> Carol Brown 04/09/2007 12:45 PM >>>  
John, can you SUNSI review the attached?

---

Carol Anne Brown  
Administrative Assistant  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
Operations Support Branch  
415-7998, MS T2-E26

**CC:** Jamila Perry; Jessie Delgado; Michele Kelton

**From:** Carol Brown  
**To:** Abdullahi, Zena; Banerjee, Maitri; Bates, Andrew; Caruso, Ralph; Champ, Billie; Duraiswamy, Sam; Fischer, David; Flack, John; Hammer, Charles; Junge, Michael; Lamb, John; McKelvin, Sheila; Mike, Linda; Nourbakhsh, Hossein; Perry, Jamila; RidsAslbpMailCenter; RidsEdoMailCenter; RidsFsmeOd; RidsNmssOd; RidsNrrOd; RidsOcaMailCenter; RidsOgcMailCenter; RidsOigMailCenter; RidsOpaMail; RidsRgn1MailCenter; RidsRgn2MailCenter; RidsRgn3MailCenter; RidsRgn4MailCenter; RidsSecyMailCenter; Santos, Cayetano; Sosa, Belkys  
**Date:** 04/09/2007 12:42:56 PM  
**Subject:** Summary Report - 540th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, March 8 - 9, 2007

Letter To: The Honorable Dale E. Klein, Chairman  
US NRC

From: William J. Shack, Chairman  
ACRS

Subject: Summary Report - 540th Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
March 8 - 9, 2007

Date: April 6, 2007

ADAMS Accession: ML070880755

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Carol Anne Brown  
Administrative Assistant  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
Operations Support Branch  
415-7998, MS T2-E26

*Handwritten notes:*  
5 miss  
John  
Perry  
5 miss  
5 miss

CERTIFIED

Date Issued: 04/25/07  
Date Certified: 04/25/07

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March 8 - 9, 2007

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- III. Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections (Open)
- IV. Final Results of the Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests Related to the Resolution of the PWR Sump Performance Issues (Open)
- V. Technology Neutral Licensing Framework and Related Matters (Open)
- VI. Proposed Revisions to Regulatory Guides and SRP Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing (Open)
- VII. Safeguards and Security Matters (Closed)
- VIII. Executive Session (Open)
  - A. Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations
  - B. Report on the Meeting of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee Held on March 7, 2007.
  - C. Future Meeting Agenda

## REPORTS:

The following reports to Dale E. Klein, Chairman, NRC, from William J. Shack, Chairman, ACRS:

1. Assessment of Aircraft Impacts on New Plants, **dated March 19, 2007**  
(Official Use Only)
2. Development of the TRACE Thermal-Hydraulic System Analysis Code, **dated March 22, 2007**

## LETTERS:

The following letters to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from William J. Shack, Chairman, ACRS:

1. Proposed Revision to Standard Review Plan Section 15.9, "BWR Stability," **dated March 22, 2007**
2. Proposed Revision 3 to Standard Review Plan Section 15.0, "Introduction - Transient and Accident Analyses," **dated March 22, 2007**
3. Proposed NRC Staff and Industry Activities for Addressing Dissimilar Metal Weld Issues Resulting from the Wolf Creek Pressurizer Weld Inspection Results, **dated March 22, 2007**

## MEMORANDA:

The following memoranda to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC, from, Frank P. Gillespie, Executive Director, ACRS:

1. Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing, **dated March 14, 2007**
2. ACRS Review of Regulatory Guides 5.69 and 5.70 Supporting the 10 CFR 73.1 Design-Basis Threat Rulemaking, **dated March 9, 2007** (Official Use Only)
3. Comments Regarding Staff Review of Thermal-hydraulic Methodologies, **dated March 14, 2007**
4. Proposed Revision to 10 CFR 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," **dated March 9, 2007**

## APPENDICES

- I. *Federal Register Notice*
- II. Meeting Schedule and Outline
- III. Attendees
- IV. Future Agenda and Subcommittee Activities
- V. List of Documents Provided to the Committee

MINUTES OF THE 540<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
**March 8 - 9, 2007**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

The **540<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) was held in Conference Room T2-B3, Two White Flint North Building, Rockville, Maryland, on **March 8 - 9, 2007**. Notice of this meeting was published in the *Federal Register* on **February 15, 2007** (72 FR 7481 ) (Appendix I). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and take appropriate action on the items listed in the meeting schedule and outline (Appendix II). The meeting was open to public attendance.

A transcript of selected portions of the meeting is available in the NRC's Public Document Room at One White Flint North, Room 1F-19, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Copies of the transcript are available for purchase from Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc., 1323 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Transcripts are also available at no cost to download from, or review on, the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRS/ACNW>.

#### ATTENDEES

ACRS Members: Dr. William J. Shack (Chairman), Dr. Mario V. Bonaca (Member-at-large), Dr. Said Abdel-Khalik, Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Dr. Sanjoy Banerjee, Dr. Michael Corradini, Dr. Thomas S. Kress, Mr. Otto L. Maynard, and Dr. Dana A. Powers. For a list of other attendees, see Appendix III.

#### I. Chairman's Report (Open)

[Note: Mr. Frank P. Gillespie was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

Dr. William J. Shack, Committee Chairman, convened the meeting at 8:30 A.M. He announced in his opening remarks that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. In addition, he reviewed the agenda for the meeting and noted that no written comments or requests for time to make oral statements from members of the public had been received. Dr. Shack also noted that a transcript of the open portions of the meeting was being kept and speakers were requested to identify themselves and speak with clarity and volume. He discussed the items of current interest and administrative details for consideration by the full Committee.

#### II. Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC Staff Action for Dealing with the Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue (Open/Closed)

[Note: Mr. Gary Hammer was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and FirstEnergy to discuss proposed NRC staff and industry activities for addressing dissimilar metal weld issues resulting from the October 2006 inservice inspection of the Wolf Creek

pressurizer nozzles. The staff presented an evaluation of the safety significance of the circumferential indications and the implications to other plants with these dissimilar metal butt welds. The results of the analysis performed by the staff revealed that in some cases the flaws may lead to a rupture before any leakage occurs. As a result, the staff has determined that inspections or mitigation activities on these welds at nine plants should be completed by the end of 2007 rather than the spring of 2008. All other plants either do not have these type of welds or will have inspected or performed mitigation activities by December 2007. NEI and FirstEnergy representatives provided the basis for completing the inspections or mitigation activities in 2008 and described an effort to develop an advanced finite element fracture mechanics analysis capability that can provide a more rigorous basis for their arguments. Licensees have committed to complete inspection or mitigation activities by December 2007 if this finite element analysis is unsuccessful at demonstrating leak-before-break. Licensees have also committed to implement enhanced reactor coolant leakage monitoring as a compensatory action in order to ensure timely plant shutdown should leakage occur. The staff stated that confirmatory action letters will be issued in the near future to confirm these commitments. The staff also stated that it is working closely with the industry on the finite element analysis effort such that timely results may be obtained in June 2007.

III. Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections (Open)

[Note: Mr. Ralph Caruso was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss proposed modifications to SRP Section 15.0, "Introduction - Transient and Accident Analyses," and SRP Section 15.9, "BWR Stability." SRP Section 15.0 was revised from the 1996 version to clarify event categories and acceptance criteria based on the current regulations. The changes are meant to cover new reactor designs. Events are now classified into Anticipated Operational Occurrences (AOOs) and postulated accidents. The SRP Section stipulates that it is necessary to demonstrate that AOOs will not escalate into postulated accidents. Anticipated transient without scram (ATWS) is put into a separate class.

SRP Section 15.9 is a new Section and incorporates information that was previously included in SRP Section 4.4. It provides guidance to reviewers on reactor stability issues and ensures compliance with the requirements in General Design Criteria 10 and 12. It applies to both new and existing plants. SRP Section 15.9 provides guidance on acceptance criteria for detection and suppression systems and generic stability problems. The guidance focuses on dealing with density wave oscillations, but reviewers are also expected to ensure that other types of oscillations have been suppressed or are not possible.

IV. Final Results of the Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests Related to the Resolution of the PWR Sump Performance Issues (Open)

[Note: Mr. Ralph Caruso was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss the final results of the chemical effects testing that has been performed to support resolution of GSI-191, PWR Sump Performance. The presentations focused on particular tests investigating the effects of an industry-proposed surrogate debris material, as well as the effects of proposed changes to the

chemical buffer material in the containment sump. The NRC staff also described a peer review that was performed to evaluate the overall program and recommend improvements and additional technical issues for consideration. The Committee members provided the staff with several suggestions for further use of the peer-review studies. The staff also presented the results of efforts to improve models of the head loss through debris-laden PWR sump screens, based on experiments performed by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

V. Technology-Neutral Licensing Framework and Related Matters (Open)

[Note: Mr. David C. Fischer was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

The staff described the framework, or process, for developing new reactor licensing requirements documented in draft NUREG-1860 and published as an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR). The framework provides guidance and criteria for creating a comprehensive set of risk-derived and performance-based requirements that can be either technology-neutral or technology-specific. The ANPR sought stakeholder input on several technical and policy issues (e.g., level of safety, integrated risk, containment versus confinement). Public comments were generally supportive of the framework, but stakeholders did not want this work to encumber new reactor licensing activities. There were mixed stakeholder views with regard to whether and when the staff should be pursuing technology-neutral versus technology-specific requirements and guidance. The Committee members commented that the framework represented a major advancement in the development of a coherent risk-informed approach to develop regulatory requirements for new reactors.

VI. Proposed Revisions to Regulatory Guides and Standard Review Plan Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing (Open)

[Note: Mr. David C. Fischer was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

The Committee discussed "high-priority" SRP Sections that are being revised or developed in support of new reactor licensing. The Committee noted that it is awaiting receipt of additional high-priority SRP Sections from the staff.

VII. Safeguards and Security Matters (Closed)

[Note: Mr. Eric A. Thornsby was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

The Committee met with representatives of the NRC staff to discuss its work to address a recommendation included in the April 24, 2006 ACRS report on ongoing security-related activities. The staff described the status of an options paper submitted to the Commission, the key information gathered to support this work, and plans for additional research.

VIII. Executive Session (Open)

[Note: Mr. Frank P. Gillespie was the Designated Federal Official for this portion of the meeting.]

A. RECONCILIATION OF ACRS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS/EDO COMMITMENTS

The Committee discussed the response from the NRC Executive Director of Operations (EDO) to ACRS comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports:

B. Report on the Meeting of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee Held on March 7, 2007

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures held a meeting on March 7, 2007, in Room T-2B1, Two White Flint North Building, Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss matters related to the conduct of ACRS business. The meeting was convened at 8:30 am and adjourned at 9:35 am.

1. Review of the Member Assignments and Priorities for ACRS Reports and Letters for the March ACRS meeting

Reports and letters that would benefit from additional consideration at a future ACRS meeting were discussed.

2. Anticipated Workload for ACRS Members

The anticipated workload for ACRS members through May 2007 was discussed. The objectives are to:

- Review the reasons for the scheduling of each activity and the expected work product and to make changes, as appropriate
- Manage the members' workload for these meetings
- Plan and schedule items for ACRS discussion of topical and emerging issues

During this session, the Subcommittee also discussed and developed recommendations on items requiring Committee action.

3. Continuing Resolution for FY2007

During the February 2007 ACRS meeting, the Committee was informed of the impact of Continuing Resolution on ACRS/ACNW activities, such as travel, training, A-76 contract, visit to the San Onofre Nuclear Plant and meeting with the regional administrator. On February 14, 2007, the Senate passed the Joint Resolution, which includes \$821 million for the Agency to accomplish its mission in FY2007. The President signed this measure on February 15, 2007. Since the Agency has sufficient funds to perform its functions in FY2007, the restrictions on ACRS/ACNW activities have been lifted.

During the February meeting, the members were informed of the temporary cancellation of the plant visit to San Onofre because of the Continuing Resolution. Since adequate funding is now available, arrangements are being made to visit the San Onofre Plant in June 2007. The members should select the dates for this plant visit.

4. Interview of Candidates for ACRS Membership

In February, the ACRS Member Candidate Screening Panel and the members interviewed three candidates with digital I&C experience and one candidate with experience in plant operations. Another four candidates were interviewed during the March ACRS meeting. Additional candidates will be scheduled for interview during the April 5-7, 2007 ACRS meeting.

5. Assessment of the Quality of Selected NRC Research Projects

During its December 2006 and February 2007 meetings, the Committee selected the following three projects for quality assessment in FY2007:

- Associated Circuit Fire Testing (CAROLFIRE) - [Banerjee (Chair), Corradini, Sieber]
- Fatigue Crack Flaw Tolerance in Nuclear Plant Piping [Shack (Chair), Armijo, Abdel-Khalik]
- Technical Review of Online Monitoring Techniques for Performance Assessment [Maynard, (Chair), Apostolakis, Bonaca]

The schedule for completing this assessment was discussed.

6. Comments by Sandia National Laboratories on Buckling Limits for the Oyster Creek Drywell

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), under a contract with the NRC, performed a structural integrity analysis of the degraded drywell containment at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The results of this analysis were presented to the ACRS, both by the staff and SNL, during its review of the Oyster Creek license renewal application. In an e-mail to the staff dated February 9, 2007, Mr. Hossheimer, SNL, states that:

During the February 1, 2007 ACRS meeting, the staff stated that SNL analysis "did not include the effect of hoop tension in determining the minimum shell thickness." The implication was that SNL should have used an increased capacity factor in determining the minimum shell thickness.

Although SNL did not apply the increase in the capacity reduction factor due to the presence of hoop tension (resulting from internal pressure) allowed by the ASME Code Case N-284, the theoretical buckling load determined by the linear elastic finite element analysis, to which the capacity reduction factor is applied, does, in fact, explicitly account for the hoop tension which develops in the shell.

SNL does not agree that the application of the increased capacity reduction factor to its analysis, as presented to the ACRS by both the licensee and the staff, to determine the minimum uniform thickness in the sandbed region is correct.

In its February 8, 2007 report on the Oyster Creek license renewal application, the Committee stated, "The staff reaffirmed its position that the use of the increased capacity factor is appropriate for the analysis of the OCGS drywell shell. We concur with its position." Neither the staff nor SNL brought the difference of opinion to the ACRS during its review of the Oyster Creek license renewal application. Therefore, the ACRS statement is based on the information presented by the staff and the applicant during the meeting.

The Committee discussed these issues.

7. State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Comments on Oyster Creek License Renewal Application

In a letter dated January 31, 2007 to Dr. P. T. Kuo, NRR, and a copy to the ACRS Chairman, the Department of Environmental Protection, State of New Jersey, states that, based on the discussions held with the NRC staff and AmerGen during the January 18, 2007 meeting, the ACRS Subcommittee members recognized the analysis performed by SNL to determine the minimum shell thickness as being more accurate than the GE analysis performed for Oyster Creek in 1991. Accordingly, it is the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's position that the NRC should require the Oyster Creek licensee to submit equally or more accurate analyses of the drywell to justify both the current continuing operation of Oyster Creek and the proposed 20-year period of extended plant operation. Furthermore, the NRC should withhold a final decision on Oyster Creek's license renewal application pending NRC staff review and approval of such analysis and any associated aging management changes.

The Department of Environmental Protection of the State of New Jersey has a similar position as that of the ACRS. In its February 8, 2007 report, the Committee recommended that the staff add a license condition to ensure that the applicant fulfills its commitment to perform a 3-D finite-element analysis of the drywell shell prior to entering the period of operation.

On March 2, 2007, Dr. Kuo responded to the above letter.

These issues were discussed.

8. Proposed Topics for Meeting with the NRC Commissioners

The ACRS is scheduled to meet with the NRC Commissioners between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2007. Topics proposed by the ACRS staff and agreed to by the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee are as follows:

1. Overview
  - Future Plant Design Activities
  - Dissimilar Metal Weld Issues
  - Future ACRS Activities
2. Risk-Informing 10 CFR 50.46
3. Framework for Future Plant Licensing
4. Digital I&C Activities
5. License Renewal/Extended Power Uprate
6. Human Reliability Analysis Models

The Committee should approve a list of topics during the March meeting.

9) ESBWR Design Clarification Review

The staff states that it has made significant progress to date on the ESBWR design certification review with the issuance of over 2800 Requests for Additional Information (RAIs), preliminary SER inputs, and in many cases SER with open item inputs. Because of the large number of open items that would be included in a staff SER with open items scheduled to be issued in October 2007, and the resultant delay in identifying open items to GE, the staff is entertaining the following proposal from GE.

GE is working towards submitting of Revision 3 of the ESBWR design control document (DCD) on February 22, 2007. This revision will purportedly identify additional design and configuration changes that result in improved plant safety margins and operational flexibility, and address NRC staff technical issues. In consideration of the number of SER open items that could result from these recently identified changes to the DCD, GE is proposing an adjustment to the NRC staff's review process "to gain mutual efficiencies." GE proposes frequent interactions with the staff to resolve open issues prior to issuance of the staff's initial SER. GE hopes to reduce the need for issuing multiple supplements to the SER to support closure of identified open items and COL action items. Open items would be identified and transmitted to GE in segments, likely on a DCD Chapter basis, to allow for their timely resolution. In this manner, the NRC staff's initial SER can essentially be a final SER that would establish the basis for initiating rulemaking. GE's schedule targets a final design certification rule by December 2009.

As a result of the aforementioned approach, the staff no longer plans to issue an SER with open items in October 2007. Rather, the staff plans on issuing a final, or near final, SER on the ESBWR design certification application in November 2008. Between now and then, the staff will be sending open item letters on a DCD chapter-by-chapter basis to GE. The staff has agreed to send these open item letters to the ACRS for review. The ACRS member assigned to review that chapter would then be asked to review the open item letter, and the associated draft SER chapter, to determine/recommend if an

ACRS Subcommittee meeting or full Committee session is warranted. If the Committee decides to review the chapter at that time, it could then write an interim letter to document its comments and/or concerns. This way, the Committee would not have to wait for the receipt of the draft final SER before it begins its review of the technical issues.

It should be noted that the ACRS adopted a similar approach in its review of the ABWR design certification application.

10. Reorganization of the ACRS/ACNW Office

A proposed reorganization of the ACRS/ACNW Office was discussed. Subsequent to the Committee's endorsement, the proposed reorganization will be sent to the Commission for approval.

11. Member Issue

On February 20, 2007, Dr. Sanjoy Banerjee received an email from Ms. Carmen DeLong, a program manager for Pro2Serve Professional Project Services, Inc. requesting his comments on Chapter 15 of DG 1145 (Combined License Applications for Nuclear Power Plants) and expressing concerns regarding the staff's review of thermal-hydraulic codes. Ms. DeLong has been informed that it would be inappropriate for Dr Banerjee to provide his individual views on an issue reviewed by the Committee and that her other concerns would best be addressed by the NRC staff.

12. Quadripartite Working Group Meeting (FPG/MA)

At the October 2006 Quadripartite Meeting, several participants suggested that Working Groups (WGs) be established to discuss specific topics in more detail prior to scheduling these topics for discussion at the next Quadripartite Meeting, which is scheduled to be held in France in 2010.

Germany's Reaktor-Sicherheitskommission (RSK) has offered to host the first Quadripartite WG meeting in Germany in September/October 2007. RSK would like to finalize the topic for the WG.

France's Groupe Permanent pour les Réacteurs nucléaires (GPR) has suggested the following two topics:

- EPR safety assessment
- High burn-up fuel

and Germany's RSK has suggested:

- Reduced leak assumptions (break concept)
- Emergency core cooling

We haven't heard from Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) yet.

C. Future Meeting Agenda

Appendix IV summarizes the proposed items endorsed by the Committee for the **541st ACRS Meeting, April 5 - 7, 2007.**

The **540h ACRS** meeting was adjourned at **6:30 PM, March 9, 2007.**

**From:** John Flack  
**To:** Carol Brown  
**Date:** 05/02/2007 9:54:05 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: Certified Minutes of the 540th ACRS Full Committee Meeting, March 8 - 9, 2007 Attached for SUNSI

Carol: The Certified Minutes of the 540th ACRS Full Committee Meeting, dated March 8 - 9, 2007, and the cover memo transmitting the minutes from Dr. Shack can be released to the general public.

Thanks,

John

>>> Carol Brown 05/01/2007 11:09 AM >>>

John, have you had a chance to SUNSI review these? I sent them last Wednesday for review.

thanks.

>>> Carol Brown 04/25/2007 4:51 PM >>>

Attached are the Certified Minutes of the 540th ACRS Full Committee Meeting, March 8 - 9, 2007. These can be found in ADAMS as ML071150508.

Also attached is the cover memo transmitting them from Dr. Shack to me. Please SUNSI review the attached.

Thanks.

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001



April 25, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Carol A. Brown, Technical Secretary  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM: William J. Shack  
ACRS Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Shack".

SUBJECT: CERTIFIED MINUTES OF THE 540<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
(ACRS), March 8 - 9, 2007

I certify that based on my review of the minutes from the 540<sup>th</sup> ACRS full Committee meeting, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I have observed no substantive errors or omissions in the record of this proceeding subject to the comments noted below.

N/A  
Comments

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS); Subcommittee Meeting on Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels; Postponed**

The ACRS Subcommittee meeting on Materials, Metallurgy, and Reactor Fuels scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland has been postponed to Tuesday, March 6, 2007, 1 p.m. until the conclusion of business. Also, a portion of this meeting may be closed to discuss industry proprietary information applicable to this matter, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).

All other items pertaining to this meeting remain the same as published previously in the *Federal Register* on Friday, February 2, 2007 (72 FR 5087).

*For future information contact:* Mr. Gary Hammer, cognizant ACRS staff engineer (telephone 301/415-7363) between 7:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. (ET) or by e-mail: [cgh@nrc.gov](mailto:cgh@nrc.gov).

Date: February 8, 2007.

David C. Fischer,

Acting Branch Chief, ACRS.

[FR Doc. E7-2622 Filed 2-14-07; 8:45 am]

CALLING CODE 7590-01-P

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****Advisory Committee On Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice**

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) will hold a meeting on March 8-10, 2007, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The date of this meeting was previously published in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 (71 FR 66561).

**Thursday, March 8, 2007, Conference Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland**

*8:30 a.m.-8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman* (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

*8:35 a.m.-10:15 a.m.: Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC Staff Action for Dealing with the Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue* (Open/Closed)—The committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, their contractors, and the Nuclear Energy

Institute regarding the technical basis for the proposed regulatory action for dealing with the dissimilar metal weld issue stemming from the Wolf Creek pressurizer weld flaws, as well as the industry activities associated with this matter.

**Note:** A portion of this session may be closed to discuss industry proprietary information applicable to this matter, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).

*10:30 a.m.-12 noon: Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding SRP Sections 15.0, Accident Analysis—Introduction, and 15.9, BWR Core Stability.

*1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Final Results of the Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests Related to the Resolution of the PWR Sump Performance Issues* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding final results of the chemical effects head loss tests in a pressurized water reactor (PWR) sump pool environment, and related matters.

*3:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.: Technology Neutral Licensing Framework and Related Matters* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the Technology Neutral Licensing Framework, and the Commission request in the November 8, 2006 Staff Requirements Memorandum that the ACRS provide its views to the Commission with respect to the staff's work on Technology Neutral Licensing Framework with the focus on ensuring the value of such an approach versus the development of a licensing framework for specific designs.

*5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports* (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on matters considered during this meeting, as well as a proposed ACRS report on the TRACE thermal-hydraulic system analysis code.

**Friday, March 9, 2007, Conference Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland**

*8:30 a.m.-8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman* (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

*8:35 a.m.-9 a.m.: Proposed Revisions to Regulatory Guides and SRP Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing* (Open)—The Committee will discuss and determine whether to review

proposed revisions to certain regulatory guides and Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections related to new reactor licensing.

*9 a.m.-9:45 a.m.: Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee* (Open)—The Committee will discuss the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the full Committee during future meetings. Also, it will hear a report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee on matters related to the conduct of ACRS business, including anticipated workload and member assignments.

*9:45 a.m.-10 a.m.: Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations* (Open)—The Committee will discuss the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters.

*10:15 a.m.-12 noon: Safeguards and Security Matters* (Closed) (Room T-8E8)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the research on mitigating strategies for new reactor designs.

**Note:** This session will be closed to protect information classified as National Security information as well as safeguards information pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and (3).

*1:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports* (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports.

**Saturday, March 10, 2007, Conference Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland**

*8:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports* (Open)—The Committee will continue discussion of proposed ACRS reports.

*12:30 p.m.-1 p.m.: Miscellaneous* (Open)—The Committee will discuss matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the *Federal Register* on October 2, 2006 (71 FR 58015). In accordance with those procedures, oral or written views may be presented by members of the public, including representatives of the nuclear industry. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during the open portions of the meeting. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Cognizant ACRS staff named below five days before the meeting, if possible, so that

appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during the meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Cognizant ACRS staff prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the Cognizant ACRS staff if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

In accordance with Subsection 10(d) P.L. 92-463, I have determined that it will be necessary to close portions of this meeting to discuss industry proprietary information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and to protect information classified as National Security information as well as safeguards information pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and (3).

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, as well as the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting Mr. Sam Duraiswamy, Cognizant ACRS staff (301-415-7364), between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., (ET).

ACRS meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available through the NRC Public Document Room at [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov), or by calling the PDR at 1-800-397-4209, or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS) which is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> or <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/> (ACRS & ACNW Mtg schedules/agendas).

Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACRS meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACRS meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACRS Audio Visual Technician (301-415-8066), between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., (ET), at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment and facilities that they use to establish the videoteleconferencing link. The availability of

videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

Dated: February 9, 2007.

**Andrew L. Bates,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. E7-2669 Filed 2-14-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Sunshine Federal Register Notice

*Agency Holding the Meetings:* Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

*Date:* Weeks of February 19, 26, 2007.

*Place:* Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

*Status:* Public and Closed.

*Additional Matters To Be Considered:*

#### Week of February 19, 2007

*Wednesday, February 21, 2007*

9:30 a.m. Discussion of Security Issues (Closed-Ex. 1)

#### Week of February 26, 2007—Tentative

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

1:30 p.m. Discussion of Security Issues (Closed-Ex. 1) (Tentative)

\* \* \* \* \*

\*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

Contact person for more information: Michelle Schroll, (301) 415-1662.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/policy-making/schedule.html>.

\* \* \* \* \*

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g. braille, large print), please notify the NRC's Disability Program Coordinator, Deborah Chan, at 301-415-7041, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by e-mail at [DLC@nrc.gov](mailto:DLC@nrc.gov). Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

\* \* \* \* \*

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary,

Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to [dkw@nrc.gov](mailto:dkw@nrc.gov).

Dated: February 12, 2007.

**Michelle Schroll,**

*Office of the Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 07-736 Filed 2-13-07; 12:43 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

### Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium for Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION:** Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

**SUMMARY:** This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or can be derived from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

**DATES:** The required interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in February 2007. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in March 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Catherine B. Kliion, Manager, Regulatory and Policy Division, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024. (TTY/TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate (the "required interest rate") in determining

February 9, 2007

**SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION  
540th ACRS MEETING  
MARCH 8-10, 2007**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM T-2B3, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH,  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

- 1) 8:30 - 8:35 A.M. Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open) (WJS/FPG/SD)
  - 1.1) Opening statement
  - 1.2) Items of current interest
  
- 2) 8:35 - 10:15 A.M. Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC Staff Action for Dealing with the Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue (Open/Closed) (WJS/CGH)
  - 2.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman
  - 2.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, their contractors, and the Nuclear Energy Institute regarding the technical basis for the proposed regulatory action for dealing with the dissimilar metal weld issue stemming from the Wolf Creek pressurizer weld flaws, as well as the industry activities associated with this matter.

Members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

**[NOTE: A portion of this session may be closed to discuss industry proprietary information applicable to this matter, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).]**

**10:15 - 10:30 P.M. \*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

- 3) 10:30 - ~~12:00~~ Noon  
12:08 Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections (Open) (SB/RC)
  - 3.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman
  - 3.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding SRP Sections 15.0, Accident Analysis - Introduction, and 15.9, BWR Core Stability.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

**12:08 - 1:30 P.M. \*\*\*LUNCH\*\*\***

- 4) 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. Final Results of the Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests Related to the Resolution of the PWR Sump Performance Issues (Open) (GBW/RC)
- 4.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman
  - 4.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding final results of the chemical effects head loss tests in a pressurized water reactor (PWR) sump pool environment, and related matters.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

~~3:30 - 3:45 P.M.~~  
3:40 - 3:55

\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*

- 5) ~~3:45 - 5:15 P.M.~~  
3:55 - 5:10 Technology Neutral Licensing Framework and Related Matters (Open) (TSK/DCF)
- 5.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman
  - 5.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the Technology Neutral Licensing Framework, and the Commission request in the November 8, 2006 Staff Requirements Memorandum that the ACRS provide its views to the Commission with respect to the staff's work on Technology Neutral Licensing Framework with the focus on ensuring the value of such an approach versus the development of a licensing framework for specific designs.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

5:15 - 5:30 P.M.

\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*

- 6) 5:30 - 7:00 P.M. Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)  
Discussion of proposed ACRS reports on:
- 6.1) Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC staff Action for Dealing with Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue (WJS/CGH)
  - 6.2) Proposed Revisions to SRP Section 15.0, Accident Analysis - Introduction (SB/RC)
  - 6.3) Proposed SRP Section 15.9, BWR Core Stability (SB/RC)
  - 6.4) Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests in a Simulated PWR Sump Pool Environment (GBW/RC/ZA)
  - 6.5) Technology Neutral Licensing Framework (TSK/DCF)
  - 6.6) TRACE Thermal-Hydraulic System Analysis Code (SB/RC/ZA)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM T-2B3, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH,  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

- 7) 8:30 - 8:35 A.M. Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open) (WJS/FPG/SD)
- 8) 8:35 - 9:00 A.M. Proposed Revisions to Regulatory Guides and SRP Sections in Support of New Reactor Licensing (Open) (OLM/DCF)  
Discussion of, and determination on, proposed revisions to regulatory guides and SRP Sections in support of new reactor licensing.
- 9) 9:00 - 9:45 A.M. Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee (Open) (WJS/FPG/SD)
- 9.1) Discussion of the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the full Committee during future ACRS meetings.
- 9.2) Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee on matters related to the conduct of ACRS business, including anticipated workload and member assignments.
- 10) 9:45 - ~~10:00~~ 10:10 A.M. Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations (Open) (WJS, et al./SD, et al.)  
Discussion of the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters.
- ~~10:00~~ 10:10 - 10:15 A.M. **\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***
- 11) 10:15 - 12:00 Noon Safeguards and Security Matters (Closed) (Room T-8E8) (MVB/EAT)
- 11.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman.
- 11.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the research on mitigating strategies for new reactor designs.

**[NOTE: This session will be closed to protect information classified as National Security information as well as safeguards information pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1) and (3).]**

12:00 - ~~1:30~~ 1:40 P.M. **\*\*\*LUNCH\*\*\***

- 12) 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.  
**(3:30-3:45 P.M. BREAK)**
- Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)  
Discussion of proposed ACRS reports on:
- 12.1) Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC staff Action for Dealing with Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue (WJS/CGH)
  - 12.2) Proposed Revisions to SRP Section 15.0, Accident Analysis - Introduction (SB/RC)
  - 12.3) Proposed SRP Section 15.9, BWR Core Stability (SB/RC)
  - 12.4) Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests in a Simulated PWR Sump Pool Environment (GBW/RC/ZA)
  - 12.5) Technology Neutral Licensing Framework (TSK/DCF)
  - 12.6) TRACE Thermal-Hydraulic System Analysis Code (SB/RC/ZA)
  - 12.7) Safeguards and Security Matters (Closed) (MVB/EAT)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM T-2B3, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

~~13) 8:30 - 12:30 P.M. Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)~~  
~~**(10:15-10:30 A.M. BREAK)** Continue discussion of proposed ACRS reports listed under~~  
~~Item 12.~~

~~14) 12:30 - 1:00 P.M. Miscellaneous (Open) (WJS/FPG)~~  
~~Discussion of matters related to the conduct of Committee~~  
~~activities and matters and specific issues that were not~~  
~~completed during previous meetings, as time and availability~~  
~~of information permit.~~

**NOTE:**

- Presentation time should not exceed 50 percent of the total time allocated for a specific item. The remaining 50 percent of the time is reserved for discussion.
- Thirty-Five (35) hard copies and (1) electronic copy of the presentation materials should be provided to the ACRS.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS**  
**540<sup>TH</sup> FULL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
March 8-10, 2007

**NRC STAFF SIGN IN FOR ACRS MEETING**

Today's Date: March 8, 2007

**PLEASE PRINT**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NRC ORGANIZATION</u>
Tai Huang	NRR/DSS/SRXB
Bob Hardies	RES/DFERR
Andrew Howe	NRR/DRA
Keith Hoffman	NRR/DCI
Yeo-Ki Chung	NRR/DLR
Aladar Contus	RES/DFERR
Steven A. Lauer	NRR/DRA
Michele Evans	NRR/DCI
Omid Tabatabai	DIRS/IOEB
Ganesh Cheruvenki	NRR/DCI
Eric Reichelt	RES/DFERR
Ram Subaratnam	NRR/DNRL
Sam Miranda	NRR/DSS
Kulin Desai	NRR/DSS
Michelle hart	NRR/DRA
Jared Wermiel	NRR/DSS
Weidong Wang	NRR/DSS
Greg Cranston	NRR/DSS
Ralph Landry	NRR/DSS
Summ BK Fun	NRR/DSS
Nathanael Hudson	RES/DRASP
Y. Gene hsii	NRO/SRSB
George Thomas	NRO/DSRA
Tim Collins	NRR/DSS
Mathew Panicker	NRR/DSS

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS**

**540<sup>TH</sup> FULL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 8-10, 2007

Ervin Geiger	RES/DFERR
Paulette Torres	RES/DRASP
John Burke	NRR/DCI
Rich Crotow	RES/DFER
Tom Hafea	NRR/DSS
Tony Hsia	RES/DFGRR
Rob Tregoning	RES/DFERR
Allen Hiser	NRR/DCI
William Krotiuk	RES/DRASP
Michael Scott	NRR/DSS
Mary Dronin	RES/DRASP
John Morringer	RES/DRASP
Lauren Killion	RES/DRASP
Thomas Kenyon	NRO/DNRL
Sud Basu	RES/DRASP
Charles Ader	NRO/DSRA
Farouk Eltawila	RES/DSARE
M. Gavrilas	RES/DRASP
Eileen McKenna	NRR/DPR
David Bessette	RES/DRASP
Jose March-Leuba	DNRL





ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

540th FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 8-10, 2007

Date

March 8, 2007

Today's Date

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>NRC ORGANIZATION</u>
Tai Huang	NRR/DSS/SRXB
Bob Hardies	RES/DFERR/ME/CEB
Andran Huar	NRR/DRA
KEITH HOFFMAN	NRR/DCI/CPNB
Yeou-Ki Chung	NRR/DLR/RLRC
Aladar Kontos	RES/DFERR
Steven A. Laur	NRR/DRA
Michele Evans	NRR/DCI
Omid Tabatabai	DIRS/IOEB
Ganesh Chermelk	NRR/DCI
ERIC REICHEL	RES/DFERR
Ram Sultartram	NHIF/NRO/DNPL
Sam Miranda	NRR/DSS/SRXB
Kulin Desai	NRR/DSS/SRXB
Michelle Hart	NRR/DRA/AADB
Jared Wermiel	NRR/DSS
Weidong Wang	NRR/DSS/SRXB
GREG CRANSTON	NRR/DSS/SRXB
Ralph Landry	NRR/DSS/SNPB
Summa BK Sun	NRR/DSS/SRXB

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

540th FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 8-10, 2007

Date

March 8, 2007

Today's Date

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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>NRC ORGANIZATION</u>
1	Nathanael Hudson	RES/DRASP/NRCA/NARB
2	Y. Gene Hsui	NRO/SRSB
3	GEORGE THOMAS	NRO/DSRA/SRSB
4	Tim Collins	NLC/DSS
5	Matthew Panicker	NRR/DSS/SPB
6	ERVIN GELGER	RES/DFERR/ERA
7	Paulette Torres	RES/DRASP
8	John Burke	NRR/DCI
9	Rich Croker	RES/DFERR
10	Tom Hafesa	NRR/DSS
11	TONY HSIA	RES/DFERR
12	Rob Traynor	RES/DFERR
13	Allen Hsieh	NRR/DCI/CSGB
14	William Krotiuk	RES/DRASP/NRCA
15	Michael Scott	NRR/DSS/SSIB
16	Mary Monim	RES/DRASP/PRA
17	John Moninger	RES/DRASP/PRA
18	Lauren Killian	RES/DRASP/PRA
19	THOMAS KENYON	NRO/DNRL
20	Sud Basu	RES/DRASP/NRCA
	Charles Adar	NRO/DSRA
	FAROUK ELTAWILA	RES/DSARE

M. GAURILAKS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

540th FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 8-10, 2007

Date

March 8, 2007

Today's Date

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NAME

NRC ORGANIZATION

1

Eileen McKenna

NRR/DDR

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David Bessette

RES/DRA SP

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

540th FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 8-10, 2007

Date

March 9, 2007

Today's Date

PLEASE PRINT

NAME

NRC ORGANIZATION

1

Stephen Koernick

NRC / NRO

2

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March 15, 2007

**SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSION  
541<sup>st</sup> ACRS MEETING  
APRIL 5-7, 2007**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM T-2B3, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH,  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

- 1) 8:30 - 8:35 A.M. Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open) (WJS/FPG/SD)  
1.1) Opening statement  
1.2) Items of current interest

- 2) 8:35 - 10:30 A.M. Human Reliability Analysis Models (Open) (GEA/HPN)  
2.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman  
2.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and Electric Power Research Institute regarding staff's and industry's plans for evaluating different human reliability analysis models in an effort to propose either a single model for the NRC to use or guidance on which models should be used in specific circumstances.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

**10:30 - 10:45 A.M. \*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

- 3) 10:45 - 12:15 P.M. Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Section 4.2, Reactor Fuels (Open) (JSA/RC/ZA)  
3.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman  
3.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding proposed revisions to SRP Section 4.2, Reactor Fuels, and related matters.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

**12:15 - 1:45 P.M. \*\*\*LUNCH\*\*\***

- 4) 1:45 - 3:15 P.M. Risk-Management Technical Specification Initiative 4b - Flexible Completion Times (Open) (GEA/MB)  
4.1) Remarks by the Subcommittee Chairman  
4.2) Briefing by and discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding Risk-Management Technical Specification Initiative 4b - Flexible Completion Times, and related matters.

Representatives of the nuclear industry and members of the public may provide their views, as appropriate.

**3:15 - 3:30 P.M.**

**\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

- 5) 3:30 - 4:30 P.M. ACRS Report on the NRC Safety Research Program (Open) (DAP/HPN)  
Discussion of proposed format, content, and assignments for the ACRS report to the commission on the NRC Safety Research Program.
- 6) 4:30 - 4:45 P.M. Subcommittee Report (Open) (OLM/MB)  
Report by the Chairman of the ACRS Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal regarding interim review of the license renewal application for the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant.

**4:45 - 5:00 P.M.**

**\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

- 7) 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)  
Discussion of proposed ACRS reports on:
- 7.1) Human Reliability Analysis Models (GEA/HPN)
  - 7.2) Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan Section 4.2, Reactor Fuels (JSA/RC/ZA)
  - 7.3) Risk-Management Technical Specification Initiative 4b - Flexible Completion Times (GEA/MB)
  - 7.4) Proposed Revision to 10 CFR 50.46 LOCA Criteria for Fuel Cladding Materials (JSA/RC)
  - 7.5) Response to November 8, 2006 Commission SRM Regarding Development of a Technology-Neutral Licensing Framework for Future Plant Designs (TSK/DCF)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM T-2B3, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

- 8) 8:30 - 8:35 A.M. Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open) (WJS/FPG/SD)
- 9) 8:35 - 9:30 A.M. Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee (Open) (WJS/FPG/SD)
- 9.1) Discussion of the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the full Committee during future ACRS meetings.
  - 9.2) Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee on matters related to the conduct of ACRS business, including anticipated workload and member assignments.
- 10) 9:30 - 9:45 A.M. Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations (Open) (WJS, et al./SD, et al.)  
Discussion of the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters.

**9:45 - 10:00 A.M.      \*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

- 11) 10:00 - 11:45 A.M.      Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)  
Discussion of proposed ACRS reports on:
- 11.1) Human Reliability Analysis Models (GEA/HPN)
  - 11.2) Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan Section 4.2, Reactor Fuels (JSA/RC/ZA)
  - 11.3) Risk-Management Technical Specification Initiative 4b - Flexible Completion Times (GEA/MB)
  - 11.4) Proposed Revision to 10 CFR 50.46 LOCA Criteria for Fuel Cladding Materials (JSA/RC)
  - 11.5) Response to November 8, 2006 Commission SRM Regarding Development of a Technology-Neutral Licensing Framework for Future Plant Designs (TSK/DCF)

**11:45 - 1:30 P.M.      \*\*\*LUNCH\*\*\***

- 12) 1:30 - 2:30 P.M.      Meeting with Commissioner Jaczko (Open) (WJS/CS)
- 12.1) Remarks by the ACRS Chairman
  - 12.2) Meeting with Commissioner Jaczko to discuss items of mutual interest.

**2:30 - 2:45 P.M.      \*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

- 13) 2:45 - 7:00 P.M.      Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)  
Discussion of proposed ACRS reports listed under Item 11.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2007, CONFERENCE ROOM T-2B3, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

- 14) 8:30 - 12:30 P.M.      Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)  
**(10:15-10:30 A.M. BREAK)** Continue discussion of proposed ACRS reports listed under Item 11.

- 15) 12:30 - 1:00 P.M.      Miscellaneous (Open) (WJS/FPG)  
Discussion of matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

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**LIST OF DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE  
540<sup>TH</sup> ACRS MEETING  
MARCH 8-10, 2007**

[Note: Some documents listed below may have been provided or prepared for the Committee use only. These documents must be reviewed prior to release to the public.]

## MEETING HANDOUTS

<u>Agenda Item #</u>	<u>Documents/Handouts listed in Order</u>
1.	<u>Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman</u>
	Items of Interest
2.	<u>Technical Basis Associated with the Proposed NRC Staff Action for Dealing with the Dissimilar Metal Weld Issue</u>
	1. Slides from Ted Sullivan (NRR) and Al Csontos (RES), titled, "ACRS Briefing on Dissimilar Metal Weld Issues Resulting from Wolf Creek Inspection Results."
	2. Slides from Alex Marion (NEI), titled, "Industry Actions to Manage Alloy 82/182 DM Butt weld Susceptability to PWSCC."
3.	<u>Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections</u>
	3. Copy of NUREG-0626, "Generic Evaluation of Feedwater Transients and Small Break Loss-of-Coolant Accidents in GE-Designed Operating Plants and Near-Term Operating License Applications.
	4. Slides from Tai L. Huang (NRR) and Jose March-Leuba (NRO), titled, "Standard Review Plan (SRP) 15.9 – BWR Stability.
	5. Slides from Samuel Miranda (NRR), titled, "Standard Review Plan 15.0 – Introduction.
	6. NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan 15.0, Introduction – Transient and Accident Analysis
4.	<u>Final Results of the Chemical Effects Head Loss Tests Related to the Resolution of the PWR Sump Performance Issues</u>
	7. Slides from Ervin Geiger (RES), titled, Overview of Research Conducted to Inform the Resolution of GSI-191
	8. Slides from Ervin Geiger (RES) and W. J. Shack (Argonne National Labs), titled, "WCAP Surrogate and Sodium Tetraborate Buffer Testing."
	9. Slides from William Krotiuk (RES), titled, "Testing and Modeling of Pressure Drop Across a Porous Medium Debris Bed on a PWR Sump Screen."
	10. Slides from Paulete Torres and Robert Tregoning (RES), titled, "Chemical Effects Peer Review."
5.	<u>Technology Neutral Licensing Framework and Related Matters</u>
	11. Slides from Farouk Eltawila, John Monninger and Mary Drouin (RES), titled, "Framework for Future Plant Licensing."