October 2, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Kathryn Brock, Chief
Research and Test Reactor Branch A
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Robert F. Kuntz, Project Manager **/RA/**
Research and Test Reactor Branch A
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2008, PUBLIC MEETING WITH NON-POWER REACTOR LICENSEES REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL (TAC NO. MD7998)

On September 15, 2008, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and a group of non-power reactor licensees at NRC Headquarters, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Many of the attendees participated via conference call. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the license renewal process for non-power reactors. Members of the public were in attendance. Public Meeting Feedback forms were not received.

On April 3, 2008, the Commission issued a Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) that requested the NRC staff to "examine the license renewal process for non-power reactors to identify and implement efficiencies that will streamline the process while ensuring that adequate protection of public health and safety are maintained." The NRC staff is in the process of responding to the Commission's request and held a public meeting with a group of licensees to gather feedback from the stakeholders on options the staff is considering, as well as the licensee's perspective on how the current process works and areas where efficiency could be improved.

The NRC staff presented several ideas that are being considered. The ideas the staff presented were: a graded approach which would have different scopes of review depending on the type of design and the license power level; an alternate safety review approach that would review the changes to the facility since it was last licensed; development of generic analysis for each of the different reactor designs that could be referenced by the renewal applicant; a generic communication issued by the NRC that would contain the necessary siting information for each of the facilities; and potential rulemaking, including an indefinite license term, particular to non-power license renewal.

The licensees provided input on each of the staff's potential streamlining options. Several licensees expressed particular interest in the generic analysis approach. The licensees that have been through the renewal process provided insight into the challenges of working through the renewal process. The licensees questioned the necessity of some requests for additional information, particularly in the area of financial qualification. Also, a licensee stated that visits

to the sites by the NRC were very productive in expediting the process and recommended the NRC staff should consider more frequent visits during the review process.

The meeting closed with a public comment period. Members of the public asked questions on the ideas presented by the staff, and one member of the public suggested another alternative for the renewal process that would just review the security requirements and the radiological impact of the facility. The staff will take into consideration the public comments as well as the licensees' inputs in responding to the SRM and developing any changes to the license renewal process for non-power reactors.

Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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List of Attendees

NRC

K. Brock
A. Adams
C. Montgomery
R. Kuntz

Non-Power Reactor Licensees

*S. O'Kelly, University of Texas
*S. Reese, Oregon State University
*A. Kauffman, Ohio State University
*M. Whaley, Kansas State University
*J. Jenkins, Purdue University
*T. Debey, U.S. Geological Survey
*S. Warren, Aerotest
*F. Meren, Aerotest
*T. Myers, National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST)
*W. Richards, NIST
*V. Holfeltz, Reed College
*S. Frantz, Reed College

Public

S. Dolley
C. Weiss

*Participated via telephone

Enclosure