

November 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Tanya M. Mensah, Senior Project Manager */RA/*
Special Project Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2008, CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC
MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION (NRC) AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES
REGARDING THE NRC'S TOPICAL REPORT (TR) PROCESS
(TAC NO. MD4832)

On October 21, 2008, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the NRC staff and industry representatives at NRC headquarters to discuss issues regarding TR process improvements. A list of meeting attendees is enclosed and the meeting agenda is contained in the October 21, 2008, public meeting notice available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) as Accession No. ML082540204

In summary, the NRC staff and industry representatives exchanged perspectives on the process to prioritize future TR submittals, discussed data obtained by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) which compared the use and referencing of NRC-approved TRs by licensees, and discussed future revisions to LIC-500, Revision 3, "Processing Requests for Reviews of Topical Reports" (ADAMS Accession No. ML081190403). In prior public meetings, the NRC staff shared a draft version (redline/strikeout format) of LIC-500, Revision 4, with industry representatives. During the meeting, the NEI provided a markup of LIC-500, Revision 4, with additional comments for NRC staff consideration.

Opening remarks were provided by Mr. Michael Case, Director, Division of Policy and Rulemaking (DPR), Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). Mr. Case thanked the NRC staff and industry representatives for its dedication in supporting the monthly TR meetings. In addition, Ms. Stacey Rosenberg, Branch Chief, Special Projects Branch, informed industry representatives of the NRC staff's near-term priorities to improve the prioritization of future TR submittals and to improve the coordination/resolution of complex technical issues that cross multiple disciplines.

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Ms. Rosenberg highlighted the importance of the TR monthly public meetings to share NRC staff progress and obtain external feedback on these near-term priorities. The first presentation, led by Ms. Tanya Mensah, Senior Project Manager, provided more detail to industry representatives on the near-term priorities that were assigned to DPR. Specifically, Ms. Mensah discussed the following recommendations:

- #1: DPR should continue its current progress on TR reviews, including its current assessment of LIC-500. (Due 5/30/09)
- #2: DPR should develop a prioritization/valuation scheme for TRs, including consideration of internal and external views. A draft prioritization scheme developed with implementation plan and presented to LT by 5/30/09. (Due 5/30/09)
- #3: DPR to reassess TR metrics for timeliness and resource expenditures, based on the new prioritization/valuation scheme. Provide results of metrics assessment to LT for the first and second quarters following prioritization scheme implementation, but no later than 1/30/10. (Due 1/30/10)
- #4: DPR should establish a process for the assignment of a Technical Champion for the more technically challenging TRs. Include attributes for decision to have Technical Champion in LIC-500 procedure by 5/30/09. (Due 5/30/09).

With regard to recommendation #1, industry representatives provided additional comments on LIC-500 for NRC staff consideration during the public meeting. Specifically, the NEI meeting handout identified text within LIC-500, Revision 4, that may need additional clarification. The NRC staff agreed to consider the comments, make revisions where appropriate, and provide a copy of the revised draft LIC-500, Revision 4, to the NEI prior to the next TR monthly public meeting scheduled for November 20, 2008. Although most of the comments identified by the NEI during the public meeting were resolved in the meeting, both the NRC staff and industry representatives agreed that the following topics should be placed on the agenda for future public meetings:

- Conditions and Limitations (Section 4.27 of LIC-500).
- Pilot Plant License Amendment Submitted in Parallel with the TR (Section 4.13 of LIC-500).
- NRC Review of the Approved Version of the TR (Section 4.2.10 of LIC-500).

With regard to recommendations #2 and #3, industry representatives provided information in their meeting handout which compared the industry use of NRC-approved TRs. The NRR TR Team members that will focus on these recommendations identified during the meeting that their next step is to develop a draft prioritization scheme. As part of that process, the NRR TR Team will consider what industry information would be useful to support NRRs ability to prioritize future TR submittals and to coordinate its TR reviews with other workload priorities. Some factors that need to be considered by the NRR TR Team, as discussed during the meeting, include prioritizing TRs against license amendment requests (LARs), consideration of the timing of the TR and LAR submittals, NRC staff availability/resources, and the order in which TRs are reviewed and evaluated. During the meeting, Mr. Case emphasized the importance of being able to assign a value to each TR to support the draft prioritization scheme. Mr. Case recommended using the significance determination process as an example to support prioritization of future TRs. The NRC staff took an action to provide industry with its information needs by the November 20, 2008, public meeting. In addition, the NRR TR Team will be meeting internally to begin developing the draft prioritization scheme.

The NRR TR Team will provide the current status of this recommendation during the November 20, 2008, public meeting.

With respect to recommendation #4, the industry representatives agreed with the concept of a Technical Champion. The NRR TR Team members will begin developing criteria that would provide guidance on when to "invoke" the use of a Technical Champion during the review of technically-challenging, multi-discipline reviews. In addition, the NRR TR Team will be meeting internally to begin developing the criteria, which would eventually be incorporated into LIC-500. The NRR TR Team will discuss current status during the next public meeting.

The NRC presentation slides are available in ADAMS as Accession No. ML083040391. The industry presentation slides are available in ADAMS as Accession Nos. ML083080047 and ML083080048.

The next TR public meeting is currently planned for November 20, 2008. A meeting notice will be issued with additional detail.

No members of the public were in attendance. No public meeting feedback forms were received.

Project Nos. 669, 689, 691, 694, and 700

Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next pages

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DISTRIBUTION:

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Package Accession Number: ML083080583

Meeting Notice Accession Number: ML082540204

Meeting Handout Accession Numbers: ML083040391, ML083080047, ML083080048

Meeting Summary Accession Number: ML083040049 NRC-001

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Gayle Elliott	AREVA
Tanya Ford	NRC
Chris Gratton	NRC
Chad Holderbaum	Westinghouse/PWROG
Ken Huffman	EPRI
Ken Karwoski	NRC
Alan Levin	AREVA
Tony Mendiola	NRC
Tanya Mensah	NRC
Steve Philpott	NRC
Stacey Rosenberg	NRC
Bill Ruland	NRC
Mike Schoppman	NEI
Carl Schulten	NRC
Rob Sisk	Westinghouse
Russ Wells	Areva
Charles Wirtz	FENOC (BWRVIP Tech Chair)

ENCLOSURE

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