

March 4, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Junge, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Richard Pelton **/RA/**
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009, MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY
FOCUS GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING

On February 4, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with the Industry Focus Group on new reactor operator licensing to discuss the project plan for the revision of the knowledge and abilities catalogs (K&A catalogs). Enclosure 1 lists the attendees at the meeting. Enclosure 2 is the agenda for the meeting.

This meeting was the latest in a series intended to promote efficient, effective, and consistent preparation and administration of new reactor operator licensing examinations. The industry provided the status of the plan to update the existing K&A catalogs. Four design-centered working groups will be working on the K&A catalogs. The K&A working groups are: ABWR, composed of representatives from South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC), Toshiba, and GE Hitachi; ESBWR, composed of representatives from GE Hitachi; AP1000, composed of representatives from Southern Nuclear Operating Company, South Carolina Electric & Gas, Duke Energy, Progress Energy, and Westinghouse; and EPR/APWR, composed of representatives from Luminant Generation Company LLC, Unistar Nuclear Energy, Ameren UE, PPL Bell Bend, LLC, and Mitsubishi.

The NRC agreed to attend design centered K&A catalog meetings to provide feedback, to review K&A sections as work progresses, and to participate in surveys as subject matter experts (SME). The NRC will also attempt to provide consistent NRC examiners/SMEs to each of the design center working groups.

It was decided that the use international SMEs and experiences for Section Three, "Plant Systems," and Section 4, "Emergency and Abnormal Plant Evolutions," of the new and revised K&A catalogs would be acceptable. Use of international SMEs on the remaining sections might not be possible due to differences in operating philosophies.

The NRC estimated that approval of each K&A catalog would occur about six months after presentation of the catalog to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). The time between submittal and approval includes time for the ACRS to review, and then meet to discuss the catalog, the public comment period, incorporation of public comments, additional ACRS meetings, and concurrent Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR). Catalogs delivered to ACRS for review should highlight changes (additions, deletions,

modifications) with an explanation of the reason for the change and provide a description of the process used to identify the changes.

Individual design centers provided the following information:

AP1000: AP1000 will use Vision software for development of the catalog. The group plans to meet in March to begin evaluation of the CVCS system. To improve the efficiency of the review process, the group plans to evaluate and deliver systems in blocks 20 systems. A new K&A catalog is planned.

ABWR: STPNOC and Toshiba have been working to develop a catalog since December 2008. The project plan identifies that STPNOC will evaluate all systems and review the changes with Toshiba and representatives from Japanese utilities using ABWR technology. To date, the list of plant systems has been reviewed with deletions made and K&A statements added. The group provided examples of two ABWR systems (ML090500697). GE Hitachi stated that they plan is to work with STPNOC and Toshiba to create one ABWR K&A catalog. The ABWR catalog will no longer be an addendum to NUREG-1123, "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Boiling Water Reactors" as originally planned, but a separate catalog. A meeting has been requested in the early summer timeframe.

ESBWR: GE Hitachi reported that work involving training has been placed on hold until certification of the ESBWR design. K&A catalog efforts are on hold.

EPR/APWR: The group reported that the addendums to current K&A catalogs will be worked between June 2009 and June 2010, delivery of draft addendums is expected between June 2010 and November 2010, with NRC approval by November 2012 rather than January 2012 as stated in the original K&A catalog plan. During the course of the project, 6 – 8 meetings involving SMEs are planned. The SMEs will be previously licensed, operations trainers, engineers, or designers. It is still expected that EPR/APWR K&A statements will be separate addendums to NUREG-1122, "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Pressurized Water Reactors."

The NRC stated that use of draft K&A catalogs for exam development is still being researched. The industry would like to use the draft catalogs in the development of several examinations.

In closing, it was decided that the next meeting related to the licensing and examination of reactor operators should be held in June, 2009 and the group would like to meet with the NRC three times per year. No final positions were taken during the meeting.

Enclosures: As stated

CONTACT: Rick Pelton, NRO/DCIP
(301) 415-1028

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The NRC stated that use of draft K&A catalogs for exam development is still being researched with the intent of using the draft catalogs to develop several examinations.

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ADAMS Package Accession Number: ML090630290
Meeting Notice Accession Number: ML090080601
Meeting Handout Accession Number: ML090500697
Meeting Summary Accession Number: ML090630034

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| OFFICE | DCIP/COLP | DCIP/COLP |
| NAME | R Pelton | M Junge |
| DATE | 03/04/09 | 03/04/09 |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Meeting with the Industry Focus Group on
New Reactor Operator Licensing
February 4, 2009

Meeting Attendees

| Name | Organization |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mike Junge | NRC / HQ |
| Rick Pelton | NRC / HQ |
| John Munro | NRC / HQ |
| Nancy Salgado | NRC / HQ |
| Fred Guenther | NRC / HQ |
| Jim Kellum | NRC / HQ |
| Sarah Price | NRC / HQ |
| Mark Lintz | NRC / HQ |
| Sean Currie | NRC / HQ |
| Russell Smith | NEI |
| Satoshi Hanada | MNES |
| Walt Shura | Dominion |
| Tom Kuhar | Westinghouse |
| Charles Sawyer | Duke |
| Michael Marler | STPNOC |
| Al Koon | SCANA |
| Tim Clouser | Luminant Power |
| Julia Longfellow | General Electric |
| Mike Llewellyn | INPO |
| Phil Polefrone | UNISTAR |
| William Jump | STPNOC |
| Mike Wagner | STP |
| Greg Sparks | Entergy |
| Todd Newkirk | IBEW |
| Jeremy Quinn | Toshiba America Nuclear Energy |
| Yasuo Ohea | Toshiba America Nuclear Energy |

AGENDA FOR THE CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE
INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING ISSUES

February 4, 2009; 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Executive Boulevard Building
6003 Executive Boulevard, Room EBB1B15
Rockville, MD 20852

TOPIC

LEAD

Introductions and Opening Remarks

NRC/Focus Group

Public Input

Public

Knowledge and Abilities Catalog Revision Plan

Focus Group

Public Questions and Answers

Public

Summary / Conclusion / Action Item Review

NRC/ Focus Group

Memo to Michael Junge from Richard Pelton dated

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MSatorius, RIII
CCasto, RIV
RCaniano, RIV
TPruett, RIV
RLantz, RIV
MMiller, HRTD
SCochrum, TTC
RDevercelly, TTC
REgli, TTC
SRutledge, TTC

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