

June 30, 2009

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

FROM: Mark Lintz, Senior Reactors Operations Engineer /RA/  
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch  
Division of Construction Inspection and Operational Programs  
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JUNE 3, 2009, MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY FOCUS  
GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING

On June 3, 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 (K&A) catalogs. A copy of the meeting notice and meeting agenda are located in the NRC's agency wide documents and management system (ADAMS) at ADAMS accession number ML091400069. Enclosed is a list of attendees at the meeting. Meeting handouts from the meeting are located in ADAMS (ML091610089 and ML091610090).

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 plans to update the existing K&A catalogs. Four design-centered working groups have been 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.

Individual design centers provided the following information:

AP1000: AP1000 will use Vision software for development of the K&A catalog. As the NRC does not use Vision, the group agreed to provide the catalog in a form usable by the NRC. The group has met in March, April, and May, and plans three more meetings. Sixteen systems remain to be addressed. An early August meeting has been requested to present a draft of the completed work to the NRC. A draft K&A catalog is planned to be submitted to the NRC by the end of 2009. The final K&A catalog submittal will consist of a docketed electronic submittal.

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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 those Japanese utilities using ABWR technology. The group is reviewing the existing BWR K&A catalog and modifying the list of plant systems. Safety ratings will be reviewed at a later date. The group plans to observe the AP1000 group to see what lessons can be learned. The ABWR group provided a description of the proposed composition of its expert panels (ADAMS ML091610090). The group plans to have a small panel review the revised K&A catalog and a larger panel to conduct the final review.

ESBWR: GE Hitachi reported that work involving training has been placed on hold. As a result, its K&A catalog efforts are on hold.

EPR/APWR: The EPR/APWR group reported that it had observed the AP1000 group meeting in May, and that their own efforts would be modeled after those of the AP1000 group. The EPR/APWR group continues to believe that its effort will result in a revision to the existing PWR K&A catalogue. The group expects to meet its K&A catalog submittal date of January 2011.

NEI submitted Revision 4 of its catalog revision plan (ADAMS ML091610089).

All groups indicated that progress on job task analysis was being made.

The NRC asked why there was a substantial increase in the proposed number of reactor operators to be trained and licensed during the 2013 – 2015 time period, while the projected number of operational reactor units was decreasing from ten to four over the same time period. This is an unexpected increase in licensed operators and it will be difficult for the NRC to support. The industry explained that they were intentionally overstaffing licensed operators and that they expected this overstaffing to last about 5 years. The reasons for overstaffing were to provide licensed operators with experience and to allow for coverage through the construction period.

In closing, it was decided that the next meeting related to the licensing and examination of reactor operators should be held by the end of the summer. No final positions were taken during the meeting.

Enclosure:  
List of Attendees

cc: w/encl:  
See next page

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ADAMS Package Accession Number: ML091770678

Meeting Notice Accession Number: ML091400069

Meeting Handout Accession Number: ML091610089

Meeting Handout Accession Number: ML091610090

Meeting Summary Accession Number: ML091760752

OFFICE	DCIP/COLP	DCIP/COLP
NAME	MLintz	MJunge
DATE	6/25/2009	6/30/2009

**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
Nancy Salgado	NRC / HQ
Sarah Price	NRC / HQ
Fred Guenther	NRC / HQ
Mark Lintz	NRC / HQ
Timothy Kolb	NRC / HQ
Russell Smith	NEI
Charles Sawyer	Duke
Greg Sparks	Entergy
Christopher Paulsen	Mitsubishi
Hamer L. Carter	Progress Energy
Richard Hons	Progress Energy
Al Koon	SCANA
Theodore E. Amundson	SNC
Charlie Nesbitt	SNC
Wes Sparkman	SNC
Glenn Macdonald	STP
Michael Marler	STPNOC
Yasuo Ohta	Toshiba America Nuclear Energy
Jeremy Quinn	Toshiba America Nuclear Energy
Daniel P. Sanchez	TVA
Thomas Wallace	TVA
Phil Polefrone	UNISTAR

Enclosure

Memo to Michael Junge from Mark Lintz dated

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GTracy	VMcCree, RII	RDevercelly, TTC
JTappert	AGody, RII	REgli, TTC
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