

September 17, 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 AUGUST 26, 2009, MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY
FOCUS GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING

On August 26, 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 changes to the licensed operator examination process. 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 "Operator Licensing Process Position Paper, Revision C" (ML09440070) for NRC comment and review.

The submittal describes the industry recommendations to ensure sufficient numbers of licensed operators are available to support fuel load. In the paper, the NEI New Plant Training Task Force proposes changing the operator licensing process for the next generation reactors as follows:

1. Allow variable sequencing and separation between the written examination and the operating test. Allow the separation to be increased from 30 days to 24 months.
2. Allow site specific written examinations to be developed, approved, and administered to license candidates for all similar reactor types on the same day.

NRC asked several questions related to the proposed changes including, how has the proposed operator licensing exam schedule changed; will experienced operators be trained in the first class or will they spread out throughout the program; and how will operations maintain proficiency?

In response to the NRC questions, the task force stated that the schedule had been modified to administer the exam 18 – 24 months before fuel load, each class would be a mix of new and old operators, and operators would be entered into some type of continuing training between the written exam and the operating test.

In closing, NRC agreed to review the proposal and provide comments at the next meeting to be held in October, 2009. No final positions were taken during the meeting.

Enclosures: As stated

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

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OFFICE	DCIP/COLP	DCIP/COLP/BC
NAME	R Pelton	M Junge
DATE	09/17/09	09/17/09

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Meeting with the Industry Focus Group on
New Reactor Operator Licensing
August 26, 2009

Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization
Mike Junge	NRC / HQ
Rick Pelton	NRC / HQ
Fred Guenther	NRC / HQ
Jim Kellum	NRC / HQ
Bruce Palagi	NRC / RIII via telecom
Brian Larson	NRC / RIV via telecom
John Butler	NEI
Russell Smith	NEI
Tom Kuhar	Westinghouse
Charles Sawyer	Duke
Mike Wagner	STPNOC
Al Koon	SCANA
Mike Llewellyn	INPO
Phil Polefrone	UNISTAR
Todd Newkirk	IBEW via telecom
Chris Paulsen	Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
Ted Amundson	Southern Company

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

August 26, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
3 Main Conference Room
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

TOPIC

LEAD

Introductions and Opening Remarks

NRC/Focus Group

Public Input

Public

Changes to the operator licensing process

Focus Group

Public Questions and Answers

Public

Summary / Conclusion / Action Item Review

NRC/ Focus Group

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DWilliams
GTracy
JTappert

MJunge
FBrown
JMcHale
SGuenther
JMunro
RRihm
DRoberts, RI
MDapas, RI
PWilson, RI
SHansell, RI
HChristensen, RII
RCroteau, RII
LPlisco, RII
MWidmann, RII
VMcCree, RII
AGody, RII
KKennedy, RII

COgle, RII
RBaldwin, RII
CKontz, RII
ABoland, RIII
HPeterson, RIII
CPederson, RIII
O'Brien, RIII
MSatorius, RIII
CCasto, RIV
RCaniano, RIV
TPruett, RIV
RLantz, RIV
MMiller, HRTD
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REgli, TTC
SRutledge, TTC

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