

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
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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PMadden  
DMatthews  
DWilliams  
GTracy  
JTappert

MJunge  
FBrown  
JMcHale  
SGuenther  
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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  
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