

March 24, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Gary DeMoss, Branch Chief
Performance and Reliability Branch
Division of Risk Analysis
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Anders Gilbertson, Project Manager */RA/*
Performance and Reliability Branch
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Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING PRA STANDARDS AND NRC
ENDORSEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RISK-INFORMED DECISION
MAKING

On March 12, 2010, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with the Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG), the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), American Nuclear Society (ANS), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), various licensee's, consultants, and other members of the public at NRC headquarters to talk about PRA standards and the NRC's endorsement of these standards in support of risk-informed decision making. The meeting announcement was issued¹ on February 17, 2010 and posted on the NRC's external web page (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML1004800210 and ML1004800320).

The purpose of the meeting was to provide (1) the staff's understanding regarding the status on the probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) standards, associated peer review and other technical guidance, and (2) the staff's proposed path forward for endorsement of revised and new standards and associated peer review in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.200, "An Approach for Determining the Technical Adequacy of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results for Risk-Informed Activities."

In the opening remarks, Deputy Director Doug Coe recognized and praised the efforts of those involved in the development of the PRA standards and peer review guidance and encouraged constructive dialogue toward progress on the proposed plan forward.

NRC Proposed Plan for Endorsement of PRA Standards and Related Guidance

The staff presentation covered the following topics: background, needed PRA infrastructure and status of existing PRA infrastructure, issues and concerns, and a proposed path forward. Enclosure 2 provides the associated slides.

¹ This meeting was a reschedule of the February 11, 2010, which was cancelled due to inclement weather. A public meeting notice and agenda was originally issued on January 8, 2010, and was posted on the NRC's external (public) web page (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML1000703642 and ML1000703701).

The NRC staff discussed the importance of PRA quality and presented a brief background on the Phased Approach to PRA and RG 1.200. The staff emphasized the purpose and need for the PRA standards and related peer review guidance.

The NRC staff discussed risk-informed activities which are and are not reviewed against RG 1.200 to promote a common understanding between the NRC and stakeholders. PRA scope was addressed with emphasis placed on the idea that risk-informed activities for operating reactors are enhanced by including in their PRA consideration of hazards beyond internal events and operating conditions other than at-power.

The presentation of NRC's proposed path forward included discussion of short- and long-term activities. Short-term activities would focus on the revision of fire and seismic standards whereas long-term activities would focus on the development of standards needed to support new reactors and pilots. Peer review guidance associated with the standards is needed in both the short- and long-term. The NRC staff proposed and emphasized the need to develop, in a timely manner, a single peer review guidance standard for all contributors. It was recognized that care should be exercised so as not to duplicate previous efforts.

The NRC will continue to hold meetings with industry and the public as often as needed to continue to promote open communication on the development of plans for the revision of current PRA standards and publication of new standards as well as development and publication of the associated peer review guidance, potential pilots, and NRC endorsement.

Industry Participation

NEI and EPRI agreed to communicate with stakeholders regarding the NRC's proposed plan and provide feedback to NRC staff within a month.

Attachments: 1. List of Meeting Attendees
2. Presentation slides (ADAMS Accession No. ML100770394)

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OFFICE	RES/DRA/PRAB	RES/DRA/PRAB
NAME	AGilbertson	MDrouin
DATE	3/24/10	3/24/10

OFFICIAL AGENCY RECORD

LIST OF ATTENDEES

MEETING CONCERNING PRA STANDARDS AND NRC ENDORSEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RISK-INFORMED DECISION MAKING

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010

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