

May 12, 2010

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 APRIL 15, 2010, MEETING WITH THE  
INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR  
LICENSING

On April 15, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with the Industry Focus Group on New Reactor Operator Licensing to discuss potential changes to the licensed operator examination process. Enclosure 1 lists the attendees at the meeting. Enclosure 2 is the meeting agenda. 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 AP1000 Owner's Group training committee (APOG) provided a status update of the AP1000 knowledge and abilities (K & A) catalog efforts. The APOG reported that NRC participation in the effort is appreciated and makes the K&A catalog a joint product. The APOG also reported that:

- With the exception of the reactor coolant pumps and the main turbine system, system reviews are complete.
- 4 – 6 of 20 abnormal operating procedures remain to be reviewed.
- Emergency operating procedure reviews should be complete by the end of May.
- System importance ratings are being determined by 19 – 21 reviewers.
- Importance ratings will be reviewed at Westinghouse the first week in May.
- Procedure ratings will be conducted in June and July.
- Draft K&A catalog submittal is on schedule.

The South Texas Project Units 3 and 4 Operations Training Manager (STP 3 & 4) provided a status update of the ABWR knowledge and abilities (K & A) catalog efforts. STP reported that:

- System reviews are almost complete.
- System importance ratings will be determined in June in Japan using Toshiba and Tokyo Electric Power Company subject matter experts.
- Emergency operating procedure and abnormal operating procedure reviews will be conducted in August in Japan.
- The final K&A catalog meeting will be held at the STP 3 & 4 training center in October. At that time, importance ratings will be reviewed.

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The benefits of conducting a mock examination prior to the operator licensing examination were discussed. Instructors would be utilized to test the examination process and to aid in determining examination techniques, especially instrument failures.

In addition to a mock examination, it was agreed that a benchmarking observation trip to a facility using a digital control room would be appropriate and useful. Observations would focus on command and control, control room communication, and control room operations using a highly integrated digital interface.

For those facilities conducting licensed operator examinations prior to certification of the plant-referenced simulator, increasing the time between the written examination and the operating test was discussed. NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," revision 9, supplement 1 (NUREG-1021), states:

The region shall not allow the written examination and operating test dates to diverge by more than 30 days without obtaining concurrence from the NRR operator licensing program office.

The NRC has issued at least four waivers to allow divergence of more than 30 days between the written examination and the operating test. The maximum waiver allowed has been for one year. At the meeting, the NRC agreed to provide a summary of the compensatory actions taken by the facility that were necessary for approval of the divergence waivers. The NRC also agreed to determine whether it would be necessary for each applicant to submit a divergence waiver request or if one divergence waiver request for each examination would be acceptable. The NRC also stated that for any divergence greater than 30 days, compensatory actions would be necessary to ensure candidates remain proficient in all areas of plant operation.

Other items discussed included developing a list of common design critical tasks, design of the written examination, delaying the date examinations are declared as publicly available in ADAMS.

No final positions were taken during the meeting. The staff agreed that clarification and additions to NUREG-1021 or other regulatory documents to implement the modified operator licensing guidance would occur after the new reactor operator licensing examination process was finalized. The industry agreed to research multiple choice question distractors.

Enclosures: As stated

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Meeting with the Industry Focus Group on  
New Reactor Operator Licensing  
April 15, 2010

Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization
Mike Junge	NRC / NRO
Rick Pelton	NRC / NRO
Jack McHale	NRC / NRR
Tim Kolb	NRC / NRR
Larry Vick	NRC / NRR
Mark Lintz	NRC / NRO
Malcolm Widmann	NRC / RII
Phil Capehart	NRC / RII
Hironori Peterson	NRC/RIII via telephonic bridge
Steve Garchow	NRC / RIV via telephonic bridge
Gary Callaway	NRC / TTC via telephonic bridge
Julia Longfellow	GE - Hitachi via telephonic bridge
Wes Sparkman	Southern Nuclear Company
Scott Bauer	NEI
Glenn MacDonald	STPNOC
Charles Sawyer	Duke
Al Koon	SCANA
Michael Llewellyn	INPO
Tom Kuhar	Westinghouse
Paul Mothena	SCANA
Mark Paul	Dominion
Phil Polefrone	Unistar
Rick Hons	Progress Energy
Leonard Kabana	MNES
Ted Amundson	Southern Nuclear Company

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

April 15, 2010  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike -- Room O 7 B4  
Rockville, MD 20852

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