July 21, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Tim Frye, Branch Chief
Construction Assessment, Enforcement, and Allegations Branch
Division of Construction Inspection
& Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Kevin Mattern, Physical Scientist **/RA/**
Construction Assessment, Enforcement, and Allegations Branch
Division of Construction Inspection
& Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

PARTICIPANTS: Public, Industry, and NRC Staff

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JULY 14, 2010, NRC CONSTRUCTION REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS (cROP) CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

On July 14, 2010, the NRC Construction Reactor Oversight Process (cROP) Working Group (WG) met with the cROP Task Force led by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and interested members of the public at the Residence Inn Hotel in Bethesda, MD (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML101660137). The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions regarding the oversight and assessment of new commercial reactor construction. The NRC cROP WG is led by Tom Kozak, Office of New Reactors (NRO), and the cROP Task Force is led by Tom Houghton, NEI.

The meeting began with remarks by Tom Kozak who described the cROP working group's activities to date along with their planned future interactions with both internal and external stakeholders. The working group continued discussions regarding the Significance Determination Process (SDP) which is being developed to determine the significance of findings identified during implementation of the construction inspection program. The working group also initiated discussions on performance indicators (PIs) and an action matrix approach to NRC response.

Mr. Kozak described the latest draft revision of the Significance Determination Process (SDP) flow chart and risk matrix for construction (ML101820479) which was developed by the NRC Working Group and presented at the July 1, 2010 Category III public meeting for the Construction Inspection Program (CIP). The SDP flow chart describes paths to escalate findings from green to white, yellow, or red, depending on the answers to specific questions. The latest revision focuses on targeted Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC). The group discussed incorporating risk into the flow chart and alternatives to targeted ITAAC for the escalating questions.

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The group also discussed an alternate approach to determine the significance of construction findings called the risk matrix, which aims to be more risk informed and objective. It uses a matrix approach with “degree of non-conformance” on the y-axis and “risk importance” on the x-axis. Discussions centered on several different approaches to incorporate risk and the assignment of point values relating to the degree of nonconformance in order to transition between rows and columns within the matrix.

Mr. Kozak gave a brief presentation on PIs (ML101530172) which described the desirable traits of an effective PI. The traits discussed were in alignment with the implementation and refinement of PIs in the current ROP. The group was in agreement that PIs have been effective for operating reactors and have the potential to be an effective tool during construction, but that developing objective, risk informed, and predictable PIs for construction would require additional knowledge and experience. Also, it was noted that setting appropriate thresholds to encourage appropriate licensee actions would require additional insights prior to implementation. Therefore the group anticipates recommending that a placeholder be kept open in the cROP for PIs if and when they are developed for construction.

Finally, Mr. Kozak discussed the current assessment process and the development of appropriate agency response to degraded performance. Tom used the Construction Response Table from Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2505 (ML093170763) and the Action Matrix from IMC 0305 (ML093421300) to illustrate potential options for consideration. The discussions centered around the number of columns required, the entry conditions into particular columns, and action by both the licensee and NRC dictated by each column. The group will continue detailed discussions on an action matrix approach at the next public meeting.

A list of meeting attendees is attached. The cROP Working Group will discuss its progress and continue developmental discussions at the next Category 2 public meeting which will be held on August 5, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Legacy Hotel in Rockville, MD. Additionally, the cROP will be discussed at the next Construction Inspection Program (CIP) Category 3 public meeting scheduled for August 19, 2010 at NRC Headquarters (TWFN Auditorium) in Rockville, MD.

Members of the public were in attendance and Public Meeting Feedback forms were distributed with none returned or submitted according to standard protocols. Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-6622, or Kevin.Mattern@nrc.gov.

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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Enclosures:
As stated

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OFFICE	NRO/DCIP/CAEB	NRO/DCIP/CAEB:BC
NAME	K. Mattern	T. Frye
DATE	07/21/10	07/21/10

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Attendance List
Category 2 Public Meeting (cROP)
Residence Inn Hotel
July 14, 2010

Attendance List

Name	Organization
Bryant, Barry	Dominion
Burdick, Stephen	Morgan Lewis
Campbell, Lisa	PWC
Copeland, Doug	NRC
Dolley, Steven	Platts
Dube, Don	NRC
Frahm, Ronald	NRC
Gardner, George	NRC
Gibson, Greg	UniStar
Gwyn, Dealis	MOX Services
Jimenez, Jose	NRC
Karlovich, Nick	NRC
Kerr, Chris	Exelon
Kinard, James	Areva
Kozak, Tom	NRC
Lukes, Bob	NRC
Mahan, Howard	Southern Company
Mattern, Kevin	NRC
Meyer, Glenn	NRC
Mookhoek, W. E.	STPNOC
Rice, April	SCE&G
Robillard, Dave	PSEG Nuclear LLC
Roche, Kevin	NRC
Sanfilippo, Nathan	NRC
Schlaseman, Caroline	MPR/TANE
Schmitt, Ron	NRC
Taylor, Larry	Progress Energy

ENCLOSURE

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