

October 6, 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 for/*
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2010, MEETING WITH THE
INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR
LICENSING

On September 9, 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 NRC discussed waivers to allow additional validity of the generic fundamentals examination (greater than two years) and operator licensing examination waivers to allow additional time between the written examination and the operating test. The NRC staff is working with the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to determine if group waivers can be submitted. The NRC stated that the waiver process described in NUREG-1021 has not changed. The NRC further stated that:

- licensees should communicate to the NRC the necessity of waivers early in the licensing examination process,
- justification for the waivers must be included,
- plans for maintaining applicants knowledge and abilities and,
- applicants receiving a waiver must be enrolled in a continuing training program.

The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) reported on the plans that are being developed for the initial accreditation process. Initial accreditation will be granted by the National Nuclear Accrediting Board (NNAB) after the evaluation of the analysis, design and development of training. After the granting initial accreditation NNAB, INPO will conduct periodic assist visits to evaluate implementation and evaluation of training, management oversight of the training, and decisions made related to training. INPO is working with the NNAB to formalize the process used to capture the assist visit data and how to report the information to the NNAB.

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The goal of the assist visits is to ensure the training programs listed in 10 CFR 50.120 meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.120 and that the operator training programs are accredited and based on a systems approach to training prior to submission of NRC Form 398, "Personnel Qualification Statement – Licensee." The NRC is working with INPO to determine the amount of NRC involvement in the assist visits.

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 Headquarters, Region II, and TTC personnel observed recent APOG K & A meetings. The APOG stated that continued NRC presence at the meetings is appreciated and makes the K&A catalog a better product. The APOG also reported that:

- Control room workshops will commence December 2010, at the Westinghouse simulator facility. Goals of the workshops include determination of the training processes to be used, self-checking and peer-checking techniques, effective crew communication techniques, and changes to operator evaluation guidance.
- Draft K&A catalog submittal is on schedule for December 2010. Workshops will continue through March 2011.
- All K & A statements (with respect to bringing the old PWR K & A catalog applicable to the AP-1000 design) have been reviewed.
- Met in July 2010, to re-write Section 1 of the K & A catalog.
- Met in August 2010, to review recent surveys on importance ratings for RO and SRO importance ratings.
- Planned to meet in September 2010, to complete the final review of the AP-1000 K/A catalog.
- AP1000 training will commence mid-2011 at the Westinghouse simulator in Cranberry, PA. The NRC will be invited to attend.

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:

- STPNOC met with Toshiba representatives in Japan in August, 2010.
- 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.
- STPNOC and the APOG training committee plan to meet in November to ensure uniformity of the vendor specific K&A catalogs.

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.

Other items discussed at the meeting that will be discussed at a future Industry Focus Group on New Reactor Operator Licensing meeting include how instrument failures affect automatic actions, one hour technical specification action statements, moving the generic K&A knowledges from the K&A catalog to NUREG-1021 given that the K&A catalogs are operator

knowledge and abilities and NUREG-1021 is the examination process, limited-scope simulators, and crew operating experience expectations.

No final positions were taken during the meeting. The staff agreed to continue working with OGC on group versus individual waivers and to discuss how the INPO assist visits will impact NRC training inspections. The industry agreed to discuss crew eligibility requirements, provide dates of the Westinghouse training, and one hour action statements. The next meeting with the Industry Focus Group on New Reactor Operator Licensing is scheduled for November, 17, 2010.

Enclosures:

As stated

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Enclosures:

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NRC-001

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DATE	10/06/2010	10/06/2010

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Meeting with the Industry Focus Group on
New Reactor Operator Licensing
September 9, 2010

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John Munro	NRC / NRR
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Sean Currie	NRC / NRR
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Malcolm Widmann	NRC / RII
Richard Baldwin	NRC / RII
Wes Sparkman	Southern Nuclear Company
Scott Bauer	NEI
Glenn MacDonald	STPNOC
Charles Sawyer	Duke
Al Koon	SCANA
Michael Llewellyn	INPO
Keith Link	Dominion
Phil Polefrone	Unistar via telephonic bridge
Rick Hons	Progress Energy
Leonard Kabana	MNES
Ted Amundson	Southern Nuclear Company
Bill Freebairn	Nucleonics Week
Russ Godwin	TVA
Dave Mullen	IBEW
Bill Wagner	DTE / DECo
Mike Wagner	STPNOC
Andy Barbee	SCANA
Bob Meyer	PROS via telephonic bridge

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

September 9, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike – Room T-10A1
Rockville, MD 20852

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>LEAD</u>
Introductions and Opening Remarks Group	NRC/Focus
Public Input Examination Waivers	Public
Licensing Examinations and GFES	NRC
Group versus Individual	NRC
Training Observations Licensing	NRC Operator Examination
Practice Examination Group	NRC/Focus
Examination Format Group	NRC/Focus
Knowledge and Ability Catalog Update	Focus Group
Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Operator Licensing	NRC/Focus Group
Public Questions and Answers	Public
Summary / Conclusion / Action Item Review Group	NRC/ Focus

cc (via email):

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