UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

October 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: ACRS Members

FROM: Kathy D. Weaver, Senior Staff Engineer ***/RA/***
Reactor Safety Branch A, ACRS

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF THE MINUTES FOR THE ACRS PLANT OPERATIONS AND FIRE PROTECTION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON JULY 29, 2010, IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS RELATED TO REGION IV ACTIVITIES AND ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The minutes of the subject meeting have been certified on October 8, 2010, as the official record of the proceedings for that meeting. A copy of the certified minutes is attached.

Attachment: Certified Minutes

cc: ACRS Staff Engineers

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WASHINGTON, DC 20555 - 0001

MEMORANDUM TO: Kathy Weaver, ACRS Senior Staff Engineer
Reactor Safety Branch A, ACRS

FROM: Mr. Jack Sieber, Chairman
Plant Operations and Fire Protection Subcommittee

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANT OPERATIONS AND FIRE PROTECTION IN NRC'S REGION IV OFFICE REGARDING ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH REGION IV MANAGEMENT AND STAFF JULY 29, 2010, IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS

I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the minutes of the subject meeting on July 29, 2010, are an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

/RA/ ***10/7/2010***

Jack Sieber, Chairman Date
Plant Operations and Fire Protection Subcommittee

Certified on: October 7, 2010
By: Jack Sieber

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANT OPERATIONS AND FIRE PROTECTION REGARDING ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH NRC"S REGION IV MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
JULY 29, 2010
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

INTRODUCTION

On July 29, 2010, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Plant Operations and Fire Protection held a meeting in the NRC's Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Region IV activities and items of mutual interest with the Region IV management and staff and hear a presentation from NEI representatives regarding the industry alternative plant safety culture assessment process. In addition to the NRC staff, representatives from NEI made presentations to the Committee. The meeting was convened at 8:30 am and adjourned at 2:00 pm.

ATTENDEES

ACRS Members
J. Sieber, Chairman
W. Shack, Member
D. Bley, Member
H. Ray, Member

ACRS Staff
K. Weaver, ACRS Staff
K. Howard, ACRS Staff
P. Wen, ACRS Staff
D. White, ACRS Staff
W. Wang, ACRS Staff
B. Hamilton, ACRS Staff
D. Davis, ACRS Staff
C. Mehrvarzi, ACRS Staff
B. Olson, ACRS Staff
J. Smith, ACRS Staff
K. Garcia, ACRS Staff
J. Fitz, ACRS Staff
G. Shukla, ACRS Staff

NRC Staff
E. Collin, NRC/RIV
T. Pruettl, NRC/RIVI
J. Clark, NRC/RIV
R. Lantz, NRC/RIV
C. Casto, NRC/RIV
D. Loveless, NRC/RIV
R. Treadway, NRC/RIV
E. Clay, NRC/RIV
V. Dricks, NRC/RIV
T. Farnholtz, NRC/RIV
K. Clayton, NRC/RIV
D. Powers, NEC/RIV

Others
T. Houghton, Nuclear Energy Institute
T. Bowman, South Texas Project

The presentation slides and handouts used during the meeting are attached to the office copy of these minutes. The presentations to the Subcommittee are summarized below.

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Opening Statement

Chairman John Sieber convened the meeting by introducing the ACRS members present. Chairman Sieber stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review information presented by the NRC Region IV staff regarding items of mutual interest and hear a presentation from NEI representatives regarding the industry's plant safety-culture assessment process. Chairman Sieber acknowledged that the Committee had received no written statements or requests for time to make oral statements from members of the public.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Staff Introduction

Elmo Collins, NRC's Region IV Regional Administrator, introduced the principal staff members present. He then called upon the first presenter for the NRC RIV staff, Troy Pruett, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety.

Overview of Agenda Items

Troy Pruett, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety provided a brief discussion and overview of the Region IV Plant Performance, including the reactor oversight process action matrix and crosscutting issues greater than 4 assessment periods at the individual plants.

Jeff Clark, Branch Chief, Division of Reactor Projects provided a brief discussion and overview of the reactor oversight process and its implementation for declining plant performance. Specifically, Mr. Clark presented a high level overview of the current reactor oversight process maturity and its evolution over the years.

Ryan Lantz, Branch Chief, Division of Reactor Projects provided a brief discussion regarding how the Reactor Oversight Process has served NRC with respect to identifying substantive cross-cutting issues. Examples of San Onofre substantive crosscutting issues were used during his discussion. Mr. Lantz explained that going forward; the NRC is continuing to use the ROP process to ensure that licensee's are taking adequate actions to address substantive cross-cutting issues, as well as other findings that have safety-culture implications.

David Loveless, Senior Reactor Analyst provided an overview and discussion on the characterization of the significant findings that have been identified and described how the ROP evaluates the safety of operating reactors.

Ryan Treadway, Senior Resident Inspector, Palo Verde provided an overview and insights into the plant safety culture assessment process. His presentation included a brief discussion and overview of safety culture assessments within the ROP and the NRC Inspector's day-to-day involvement with safety culture. He explained that as inspector's conduct inspection activities, they identify any human-performance errors that affect performance and try to identify the underlying cause of the error. Mr. Treadway also explained that during plant performance assessments, they evaluate overall performance and look for any patterns or trends in human performance or the plants corrective action program.

Neil O'Keefe, Branch Chief, Division of Reactor Safety, described how insights from engineering inspections are improving safety. He briefly described the results of three team inspections with findings that added value. Examples used by Mr. O'Keefe were flood protection findings at Fort Calhoun, electrical issues at San Onofre, and license renewal issues at Cooper Nuclear Station.

Kelly Clayton, Senior Examiner, Division of Reactor Safety, provided a brief overview of the component design bases inspections and results.

Earnestine Clay, Administrative Management Team Leader, provided an overview of the regional safety culture and open collaborative work environment.

Chuck Casto, Deputy Regional Administrator provided a brief discussion of Region IV challenges which included preparations for a Region IV office move in late 2010, continuing to develop staff and managers in support of succession planning, continuing to conduct outreach initiatives with external stakeholders, and continue to focus on the oversight of San Onofre and Wolf Creek.

At the end of the NRC Region IV's staff presentation Elmo Collins thanked the ACRS subcommittee members for allowing them the opportunity to host the subcommittee meeting.

Following the NRC Region IV's staffs' presentations, Tom Houghton, NEI gave a presentation on the Industries Plant Safety Culture Assessment iniaitives. Mr. Houghton explained that the industry's objective was to establish a consistent, holistic approach for sites to use in assessing safety culture on a continuing basis, and to establish a common methodology for conducting surveys and assessments. Mr. Houghton briefly described the challenges with the existing situation regarding evaluation of safety culture at the sites and provided a brief description of the site nuclear safety culture process the industry has developed. Mr. Houghton stated that currently there are 4 pilot plants implementing the process, which includes South Texas Project.

Tim Bowman, South Texas, General Manager Oversight, provided an overview of the site nuclear safety culture process. He stated that his process provides a method to identify nuclear safety culture issues, provides a forum for perception issues to be addressed, is transparent, is well-defined and repeatable, and promotes management accountability for nuclear safety culture.

SUBCOMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

Chairman Sieber concluded the meeting by thanking everyone who participated in the subcommittee meeting. Chairman Sieber stated that he was very proud of the work the regional staff does. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.