

December 16, 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 NOVEMBER 17, 2010, MEETING WITH THE
INDUSTRY FOCUS GROUP ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR
LICENSING

On November 17, 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 the APOG met the week of November 8, 2010 to finalize revisions to the generic sections of the catalog due to differences in the technology and terminology between AP1000 and current pressurized reactors. The AP1000 catalog is essentially complete, acronyms are being removed, and the APOG expects to submit the catalog to the NRC in January 2011.

The South Texas Project Units 3 and 4 Operations Training Manager (STP) provided a status update of the ABWR K & A catalog efforts. STP reported that final changes are being incorporated into the catalog while ensuring consistency across the catalog and accompanying documentation is being completed. The ABWR catalog is on a timeline similar to AP1000 and STP plans to submit the catalog to the NRC in January 2011.

It was suggested that, after submission of the ABWR and AP1000 K&A catalogs, a workshop be held to discuss the rating factors differences ABWR and AP1000, the rating factor development process, the stem statement development process, and answer any additional questions. The workshop, to be held the week of January 17, 2011, would include participants from the Regional offices, the Technical Training Center, and the industry.

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Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems Inc. (MNES) reported that the K&A catalog for the USAPWR continues to evolve. MNES continues to request that Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) form an expert panel of formerly licensed operators to conduct a gap analysis of the current pressurized water reactor K&A.

The Industry provided a paper, enclosure 3, discussing RO/SRO Technical Specification (TS) Knowledge Differences (ML103500465) specifically, knowledge differences related to one hour technical specification action statements. The NRC agreed to send the paper to Regional and headquarters examiners for review and discuss the results of that review at the next Focus Group meeting.

Group waivers for allowing increased time between the written exam and the operating test were discussed. The NRC reported that it does not appear that there is any regulatory barrier to allowing group waivers in circumstances where the grounds for the waiver apply to the group. For example, a waiver could be considered if a plant is under construction and a plant walk-through is not possible. However, the waiver discussion in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" assumes individual rather than group waivers and cites grounds for waivers that relate to the circumstances of specific individuals. If group waivers are contemplated, the grounds for granting them (and exactly what will be granted if they are approved – license conditions etc.) will need to appear in guidance (NUREG 1021) at some point. This assumes a temporary waiver related to the timing of the different phases of testing, not a permanent waiver.

The NRC and the industry will work together to determine if a new examination format is necessary for highly integrated control rooms. During the Westinghouse training of industry instructors, mock exams will be developed and administered to the trainees by a consensus group of NRC staff and industry training personnel. These mock exams will be used to evaluate possible changes. An assessment will be performed to determine if changes to the current exam format are necessary. Resultant changes to the exam format will be incorporated into NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors."

A self assessment by a licensee following an operator licensing examination on a simulator with digital systems, identified several software issues. The focus group reviewed the results of the self assessment to determine if similar software issues could exist in the new digital control rooms and simulators. The industry and NRC staff agreed to follow up on the self assessment and investigate the validity of similar issues for the new reactor designs.

No final positions were taken during the meeting. The staff agreed to review RO/SRO Technical Specification (TS) Knowledge Differences paper and to determine how the INPO ATV follow-up visits will impact NRC training inspections. The industry agreed to review NUREG 1021, ES-401, "Preparing Initial Site-Specific Written Examinations" for potential changes to the requirements, procedures, and guidelines for preparing site-specific written examinations. The next meeting with the Industry Focus Group on New Reactor Operator Licensing has not been scheduled.

Enclosures: As stated

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DATE	12/16/2010	12/16/2010

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Meeting with the Industry Focus Group on
New Reactor Operator Licensing
November 17, 2010

Name	Organization
Mike Junge	NRC / NRO
Rick Pelton	NRC / NRO
Jack McHale	NRC / NRR
John Munro	NRC / NRR
Jim Kellum	NRC / NRO
Mark Lintz	NRC / NRO
Sam Hansell	NRC / RI
Malcolm Widmann	NRC / RII
Bruno Caballero	NRC/RII via telephonic bridge
Hironori Petersen	NRC / RIII via telephonic bridge
Dave Reeser	NRC / RIII via telephonic bridge
Steve Garchow	NRC / RIV
Scott Egli	NRC / TTC via telephonic bridge
Wes Sparkman	Southern Nuclear Company
Glenn MacDonald	STPNOC
Charles Sawyer	Duke
Michael Llewellyn	INPO
Phil Polefrone	Unistar via telephonic bridge
Leonard Kabana	MNES
Ted Amundson	Southern Nuclear Company
Russ Godwin	TVA
Tim Clouser	Luminant
Paul Hippely	Westinghouse
Paul Mothena	SCANA
Walt Shira	
Jeff Mahan	MNES – US
Bob Post	Dominion

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

Wednesday, November 17, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North Room [T - 10A1]
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

TOPIC

LEAD

Introductions and Opening Remarks	NRC/Focus Group
Public Input	Public
Knowledge and Ability Catalog Update	Focus Group
Instrument Failures and Automatic Actions	NRC
One Hour Action Statements	Focus Group
Group versus Individual Waivers	NRC
Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Operator Licensing	NRC/Focus Group
Public Questions and Answers	Public
Summary / Conclusion / Action Item Review	NRC/ Focus Group

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FBrown	COgle, RII	RDevercelly, TTC
JMcHale	RBaldwin, RII	REgli, TTC
JMunro	RAiello, RII	SRutledge, TTC

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