

June 1, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: Frederick D. Brown, Director  
Division of Inspection and Regional Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: John J. McHale, Chief **/RA/**  
Operator Licensing and Training Branch  
Division of Inspection and Regional Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE 2011 ANNUAL U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION/INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONS  
COORDINATION MEETING ON TRAINING-RELATED ISSUES

On May 11, 2011, a periodic public U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)/Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) coordination meeting on training-related issues was held at INPO Headquarters, Atlanta, Georgia. Such meetings are conducted in accordance with the NRC/INPO Memorandum of Agreement dated December 10, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss items of mutual interest concerning INPO's training program accreditation process. Participants included representatives of the NRC's Division of Inspection and Regional Support, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR); NRC's Division of Construction, Inspection, and Operational Programs, Office of New Reactors (NRO); Regional Operator Licensing Branch Chiefs; INPO's Training and Accreditation Division, and one member of the public. The list of meeting attendees is provided as Enclosure 1. The meeting agenda is provided as Enclosure 2. A summary of the discussions related to key agenda topics covered during the meeting follows.

### **Introductions and Opening Remarks**

An introduction of the member of the public and NRC and INPO personnel present was conducted. NRC/INPO provided opening remarks. As part of the opening remarks, INPO and NRC discussed organizational changes since the 2010 Coordination Meeting.

### **Accreditation Update**

INPO conducted 33 Accreditation Visits in 2010. NRC observed one Accreditation Team Visit (ATV) and observed eleven of twelve accrediting boards during calendar 2010.

INPO reported good industry support, in the form of peer members, for ATVs. To improve facility accreditation skills, INPO is:

- Conducting three Accreditation Self-Evaluation Report workshops per year using peers,
- Providing mid-cycle accreditation assistance,
- Conducting a corporate training director meeting twice a year,

- Conducting instructional technology workshops to introduce new instructional technologists to nuclear training

INPO updated job performance requirements for existing engineering positions and some new positions, to more fully cover issues such as boric acid corrosion control programs, underground piping, cyber security, and dry cask storage.

INPO announced plans to publish this summer, an Appendix A to ACAD 10-001, "Guidelines for Initial Training and Qualification of Licensed Operators." The appendix will highlight best practices associated with qualifying licensed operators. This appendix will include topics such as training program oversight, candidate selection, program design, preparing license candidates, initial operator training progression and oversight, examination strategy, examination validation, and station staffing of training staff and licensed operators.

INPO developed an Examination Developer Course to help licensees better understand examination standards in NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" The NRC requested to be informed of any insights learned from teaching the course that could result in improved clarity of the NUREG.

### **New Reactor Accreditation Update**

INPO has worked with the NRC and interested utilities on initial accreditation of training programs for licensed operators. INPO expects to conduct initial ATVs beginning in 2011. New reactor initial accreditation is expected three to four years prior to fuel with renewal of accreditation within one year of fuel load.

### **Regulatory Issues**

The NRC issued Regulatory Guide 1.149, "Nuclear Power Plant Simulation Facilities for Use in Operator Training and License Examinations and Applicant Experience Requirements," revision 4, in April 2011. The NRC is encouraging licensees to voluntarily adopt the new revision.

The NRC is updating Inspection Procedure 71111.11, "Licensed Operator Requalification Program" and plans to enhance observation of on-shift operators within the scope of inspection activities. The NRC is also developing a new procedure to inspect the suitability of simulation facilities for use as a plant-reference simulator to meet licensed operator training, examination, and experience requirements.

In the new reactor area, the NRC stated that ANSI/ANS 3.1, "Selection, Qualification, and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants" is being revised to address new reactor issues with the intent to revise and update Regulatory Guide 1.8, "Qualification and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants" in 2012. The NRC is working to develop an appendix to NUREG 1021 to address new reactor operating licensing issues and processes.

### **Future of Learning**

The Future of Learning is fully staffed with three instructors conducting instructor certifications. Instructor certification is a two-week blended training program. Blended training programs have curriculum that can incorporate all methods of training including web-based, face-to-face, discussion boards, and individual activities. This training has been well received as evidenced by the increase from 15 planned courses to 25 based on utility requests.

A Learning Content Management System (LCMS) is being implemented and was pilot tested by five utilities in 2010. An LCMS is a multi-user system where course developers can create, store, and manage learning content for reuse and delivery via different methods. LCMS allows stronger configuration control because there is a master set of content that can be updated based on operating experience and feedback. This improves training program efficiency and effectiveness.

### **NANTel Update**

The National Academy for Nuclear Training e-Learning (NANTel) system is a national web-based system that provides standardized, generic training for the supplemental workforce that satisfies the industry and the insurer. All U.S. nuclear power plants have agreed to accept training delivered through NANTel. Qualification of the individual remains the responsibility of site.

INPO reported that the use of NANTel has increased significantly. The number of users in 2008 was 60,981 with 338,673 course completions. In 2010, the number of users increased to 95,348 and the number of course completions increase to 703,433.

### **Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Training**

There was a short discussion of INPO's SOER regarding human performance errors committed by station personnel. INPO has taken steps to enhance the crew performance observation process as part of plant evaluations.

Regarding potential follow-up actions to the recent events at the Fukushima-Daiichi power plant in Japan, the NRC and INPO stated that reviews of the event were in progress and would likely have implications in the training and qualification of nuclear power plant personnel. Final actions will be implemented based on the outcome of the reviews.

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing, it was decided that additional meetings related to the training and qualification of reactor operators will be held. No final positions were taken during the meeting.

CONTACT: D. Allsopp, NRR/DIRS/IOLB  
301-415-3073

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DATE	06/01/2011	06/01/2011

## **ATTENDEES**

### **INPO-NRC Coordination Meeting, May 11, 2011**

#### **Institute of Nuclear Power Operations**

David Igyarto, Vice President Industry Training and Accreditation, and Executive Director of the National Academy

Pete Knoetgen, Director, Accreditation

Steve Johnson, Deputy Director, Accreditation

George Mortensen, NRC Liaison

Elizabeth Brattin, Director, Industry Learning

Bob Wood, Senior Program Manager in Future of Learning

William Russell, Senior Program Manager in Industry Learning and Development

Robert Coovert, Manager, NANTeL

Burl McCosh, Senior Evaluator

#### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Bruce Boger, Deputy Director for Reactor Safety Programs, NRR

Laura Dudes, Director, Division of Construction Inspection and Operational Programs, NRO

John McHale, Chief, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR

Michael Junge, Chief, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, NRO

Malcolm Widmann, Chief, Operations Branch 1, RII

Mark Franke, Chief, Operations Branch 2, RII

Mike Bielby, Operations Branch, RIII

Mark Haire, Chief, Operations Branch, RIV

David Allsopp, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR

Richard Pelton, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, NRO

#### **Other**

Katie Van Ewyk, Aerotek

AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING  
WITH INPO ON TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

May 11, 2011  
9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Institute Of Nuclear Power Operations  
700 Galleria Parkway, Room 216  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

TOPICS

- Introductions and Opening Remarks
- Public Input
- Accreditation Update
- New Reactor Accreditation Update
- Regulatory Issues
- Future of Learning
- NANTeL Update
- Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Training
- Public Questions and Answers
- Closing Remarks

ENCLOSURE 2