

August 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: John R. Jolicoeur, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Michelle C. Honcharik, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 4, 2011, U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION MEETING WITH THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
TASK FORCE AND THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE
REGARDING GAS ACCUMULATION ISSUES AND TSTF-523

On August 4, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with members of the Technical Specifications (TS) Task Force (TSTF) and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Gas Accumulation Team (GAT) regarding gas accumulation issues and Traveler TSTF-523. The meeting was held at NRC offices in One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. A list of the meeting attendees is enclosed. The meeting notice and agenda, dated July 15, 2011, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Package Accession No. ML111881144.

Members of the NEI GAT discussed the original intent of NEI's Topical Report, NEI 09-10, "Guidelines for Effective Prevention and Management of System Gas Accumulation," and how it was developed. The TR was developed and intended to be used as industry guidance only. It was not intended to be used as part of a licensee's licensing basis or in conjunction with traveler TSTF-523. The NEI GAT presentation is available in ADAMS at Accession No. ML11223A061.

The NRC staff reviewed the intent and status of generic communications related to gas accumulation issues, specifically issuance of Information Notice (IN) 2011-17, "Calculation Methodologies for Operability Determinations of Gas Voids in Nuclear Power Plant Piping," and closure of Generic Letter (GL) 2008-01 "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems." The NRC staff also discussed how the various documents interrelate to one another and the nexus to applicable regulations and regulatory guidance. The NRC staff's presentation is available in ADAMS at Accession No. ML112200077.

The remainder of the meeting was spent receiving feedback from TSTF members on the NRC letter dated May 25, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML111430832). The TSTF presentation is available in ADAMS at Accession No. ML11223A062. The original traveler proposed removing the surveillance from the TS. The NRC staff's letter dated May 25, 2011, stated that the staff did not find this approach acceptable and provided an example of one draft approach the staff would find acceptable. In the May 25 letter, the NRC staff also proposed that the scope of the traveler be expanded to include not only the systems in GL 2008-01, but also additional systems

in NEI 09-10. The TSTF members proposed an alternate approach, using the existing frequency control program for gas accumulation surveillances. The alternate approach would only include systems in GL 2008-01. Mr. Tony Browning of the TSTF stated that they are not opposed to expansion to additional systems, but want that expansion to be vetted through appropriate regulatory process. Mr. Tony Ulises of the NRC stated that the TSTF should work on revising the traveler with the current scope. The NRC may pursue expansion to other systems through the appropriate regulatory processes. The TSTF will develop a draft revision, to be discussed at a meeting most likely in early November. After receiving feedback from the NRC at this next meeting, the TSTF will finalize and submit a revision to Traveler TSTF-523.

Members of the public who participated via teleconference are listed with the meeting attendees. No public meeting feedback forms were received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1774 or at Michelle.Honcharik@nrc.gov.

Project Nos. 753 and 689

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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Members of the public who participated via teleconference are listed with the meeting attendees. No public meeting feedback forms were received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1774 or at Michelle.Honcharik@nrc.gov.

Project Nos. 753 and 689

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

ADAMS Accession Nos: Package: ML112200020
Meeting summary: ML112200021
Meeting notice and agenda: Package ML111881144
Meeting handouts: ML112200077, ML11223A061, and ML11223A062

OFFICE	PLPB/PM	PLPB/LA	PLPB/BC	PLPB/PM
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DATE	8/10/11	8/16/11	8/31/11	8/31/11

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Project No. 753

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Attendees at the Gas Accumulation Issues Meeting

August 4, 2011

Name	Organization
Sher Bahadur	NRC/Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)/Division of Safety Systems (DSS)
Michelle Honcharik	NRC/NRR/Division of Policy and Rulemaking (DPR)
John Jolicoeur	NRC/NRR/DPR
Robert Elliott	NRC/NRR/Division of Inspection and Regional Support (DIRS)
Matthew Hamm	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Anthony Ulses	NRC/NRR/DSS
Sheldon Stuchell	NRC/NRR/DPR
Warren Lyon	NRC/NRR/DSS
Diana Woodyatt	NRC/NRR/DSS
Joshua Miller	NRC/NRR/DSS
Sunil Weerakkody	NRC/NRR/DSS
William Ruland	NRC/NRR/DSS
*Jim Riley	Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Gas Accumulation Team (GAT)
Ken Petersen	Strategic Teaming and Resource Sharing (STARS) (NEI GAT)
*Christopher Brennan	Exelon (NEI GAT)
Deann Raleigh	Scientech
*Nancy Chapman	Bechtel Power Corporation
Ted Schiffley	BWROG (NEI GAT)
Tony Browning	Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF)
Brian Mann	TSTF
Jack Stringfellow	TSTF
William Steelman	TSTF
Les England	Entergy Services

*Participated via teleconference.

ENCLOSURE