



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 25, 2012

SECRETARY

Andy Barbee
Director, Nuclear Training
Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 88
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Dear Mr. Barbee:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is pleased that you will participate in a public Commission meeting on the operator licensing program, on November 27, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Conference Room on the first floor of the NRC's Headquarters building at One White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland. The Commission is interested in hearing your views, providing a utility perspective on licensed operator training program challenges for existing and new build plants. I am enclosing a copy of the draft meeting agenda for your information (enclosure 1). My staff will keep you informed of any updates to the agenda. The staff has an information paper on the operator licensing process due to the Commission on November 8, 2012. As soon as the paper is publicly released, my staff will provide it to you.

To assist the Commission in preparing for the meeting, please e-mail any written material, including slides/viewgraphs, to Ms. Rochelle Bavol and Ms. Sandy Joosten (rochelle.bavol@nrc.gov and sandy.joosten@nrc.gov) in the Office of the Secretary, by November 19, 2012, so that it can be distributed to the Commission for review in advance of the meeting. Enclosed are guidelines for slides, if you choose to use them (enclosure 2). PowerPoint is the preferred format, but other electronic presentation formats may be used. This Commission meeting will be webcast live at the Web address: www.nrc.gov. If you intend to use slides, they will also be posted on the NRC website prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Bavol at 301-415-1651.

Your presentation at the Commission meeting should be based on the assumption that Commissioners are familiar with the content of your written material. Please plan your oral presentation for 10 minutes, discussing the important points on which you wish to focus the Commission's attention.

The NRC Headquarters building is located opposite the White Flint Metro Station on Rockville Pike and Marinelli Drive, Rockville, Maryland. The White Flint Metro Station is on the Red Line of the Washington area subway system. Reserved visitor parking for Commission guests is available. If you wish to use reserved parking, please notify Ms. Bavol in advance. If reserved parking has been arranged, please check-in with the security staff at the entrance to the NRC campus on Marinelli Drive when you arrive. A Security Guard will call for an escort. Please

note that visitors will be screened through metal detectors, will have their packages x-rayed, and will be required to present a picture identification card prior to signing in at the registration desk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Vietti-Cook", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosures:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Briefing Visuals Guidance

Final: 10/25/12 (Rev.)

SCHEDULING NOTE**Title:** **BRIEFING ON OPERATOR LICENSING PROGRAM (Public)****Purpose:** Provide the Commission with a discussion of the status of operator licensing in the nuclear power industry, covering issues related to licensee training programs, NRC initial licensing examinations, and requalification. Topics will include industry training program administration and oversight, industry feedback on the NRC examination process, progress on efforts to improve the initial examination process, NRC observations on implementation of initial operator licensing programs for existing and new reactors, and observations on requalification programs and operator human performance trends.**Scheduled:** **November 27, 2012**
9:00 am**Duration:** Approx. 3 hours and 10 minutes**Location:** Commissioners' Conference Room, 1st floor OWFN

Participants:	Presentation
<u>External Stakeholder Panel</u>	50 mins.*
Steven Johnson , Director of Accreditation, Institute of Nuclear Power Operations <u>Topic:</u> Licensed Operator Training Program Accreditation and Performance Trends	10 mins.*
Brian Snyder , Vice President, Professional Reactor Operator Society <u>Topic:</u> Operator Initial and Requalification Training and Evaluation – an Operator's Perspective	10 mins.*
Andy Barbee , Director, Nuclear Training, Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (a SCANA Company) <u>Topic:</u> Utility Licensed Operator Training Program Challenges for Existing and New Build Plants	10 mins.*
Chuck Sizemore , Chairman, Nuclear Energy Institute's Licensed Operator Focus Group, and Fleet Operations Training Manager, NextEra Energy <u>Topic:</u> Industry Recommendations to Improve the Initial Operator Licensing Process	10 mins.*

Audeen Fentiman, Ph.D., Purdue University, Associate Dean of Engineering for Graduate Education and Interdisciplinary Programs/
Professor of Nuclear Engineering
Topic: The NRC Initial Operator Licensing Training and Examination Process in Comparison to Other Programs in Industry and Academia 10 mins.*

Commission Q&A 50 mins.

Break 5 mins.

NRC Staff Panel 30 mins.*

Bill Borchardt, Executive Director for Operations

Bruce Boger, Deputy Director for Reactor Safety Programs, NRR

Jack McHale, Chief, NRR Operator Licensing & Training Branch
Topics: Basis for the Current Initial Operator Licensing Examination Process and Process Improvements under Consideration

Mike Junge, Chief, NRO Operator Licensing & Human Performance Branch
Topic: Initial Operator Licensing for New Reactors

Mark Haire, Chief, Region IV Operations Branch
Topic NRC Regional perspective: Initial Examination Development and Requalification Issues

Commission Q & A 50 mins.

Discussion – Wrap-up 5 mins.

*For presentation only and does not include time for Commission Q & A's

Documents:

- Information Paper on the Operator Licensing Process (based on Chairman tasking memorandum dated February 8, 2012), due 11/8/12

Staff background material due to SECY: November 9, 2012.

Slides due to SECY: November 19, 2012.

PRESENTATION TITLE

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Date of Briefing

Your name, title, office

Arial Black 32

Slide Title – Arial Black 36

- ***Text (Arial Black 32) on white.***
- ***Top and Side margins 1 inch min.***
- ***Bottom margin 2 inch min.***
- ***Number pages***
- ***Explain acronyms or include a separate slide with list***