

December 10, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Richard H. Turtill, Acting Chief
Financial Analysis and International Projects Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Jo Ann Simpson, Financial Analyst */RA/*
Financial Analysis and International Projects Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2012, PUBLIC MEETING
CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION, INDUSTRY, LICENSEES, AND STAKEHOLDERS TO
DISCUSS DRAFT NUREG-1307, REVISION 15, "REPORT ON
WASTE BURIAL CHARGES – CHANGES IN DECOMMISSIONING
WASTE DISPOSAL COSTS AT LOW-LEVEL WASTE BURIAL
FACILITIES"

On November 7, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a Category 2 Public Meeting at NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, 20852 to discuss Draft NUREG-1307, Revision 15, "Report on Waste Burial Charges – Changes in Decommissioning Waste Disposal Costs at Low-Level Waste Burial Facilities." The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) requested this meeting on Draft NUREG-1307, Revision 15, with a specific focus on the utilization of the licensees' site-specific decommissioning cost estimates used in the development of Table A-4, "Disposition of Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) Assumed in Preliminary Decommissioning Cost Estimates." A list of attendees is provided as an enclosure to this Public Meeting Summary (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No.: ML12319A331).

The NRC opened the meeting with an overview of the general background on NUREG-1307 and its usage by the licensees. Per NRC requirements, licensees must estimate the cost of decommissioning their facilities to NRC standards and provide reasonable assurance that funds will be available for safe decommissioning. NUREG-1307 is revised periodically based on updated information, and provides information on applying the minimum decommissioning funding assurance (DFA) formula for determining the minimum decommissioning funds required.

CONTACT: Jo Ann Simpson, NRR/DIRS
(301) 415-8388

Draft NUREG-1307, Revision 15 was issued for public comment in September 2012 for a 30-day public comment period. The NRC further extended the public comment period to 55-days after reviewing a letter by NEI requesting the NRC extend the public comment period in order to evaluate the effect of the proposed changes in Draft NUREG-1307, Revision 15.

The NRC's contractor, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), gave a historical overview of previous Revisions of NUREG-1307. Notably, the waste vendor option was introduced in 1998 at the industry's request to more closely align the formula with actual cost estimates. PNNL discussed the methodology in the use of the licensees' site-specific decommissioning cost estimates (SSCE) in the current Draft NUREG-1307 (ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML12312A011 and ML12312A419), which assumes that 60 percent of the total waste volume is dispositioned using waste vendors at the Clive, Utah, disposal facility and the remaining 40 percent is dispositioned through direct disposal at one of the two full-service disposal facilities.

NEI's presentation (ADAMS Accession No.: ML12310A022) provided the nuclear industry's views on Table A-4 of Draft NUREG-1307, Revision 15. NEI stated that the proposed revision should reflect the fact that nearly all low-level waste is sent to the Clive facility, which would result in lower costs. On that basis, the assumption that 40 percent of the total waste volume will be disposed in full service facilities should be reduced to 5 percent.

A number of licensees gave their viewpoints on the reassessment of the waste vendor option and the use of the SSCE in the reassessment of the waste vendor assumption (ADAMS Accession No.: ML12319A319). Licensees and a waste disposal site operator stated that a more realistic split of waste, based on actual use of the disposal sites, would be 95 percent at the Clive facility and 5 percent at a full service facility.

Industry stakeholders stated that aligning the formula amount in 10 CFR 50.75 with actual decommissioning costs should be done via the rulemaking process rather than making adjustments to NUREG-1307.

Comments provided during the meeting, and as part of the public comment period, will be evaluated and considered in issuing the final version of NUREG-1307, Revision 15. The NRC staff reminded meeting attendees that the public comment period for commenting on the NUREG ends on November 15, 2012.

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Please direct any inquires regarding Draft NUREG-1307, Revision 15 to Jo Ann Simpson at 301-415-8388 or via email at JoAnn.Simpson@nrc.gov.

Enclosures:

1. Nuclear Industry Views on Table A-4 of Proposed Revision 15 to NUREG-1307
2. NUREG-1307 Public Meeting Presentation 11-07-2012
3. NUREG-1307, Revision 15 – Revised Table A-4
4. PSEG Nuclear Comments
5. Enclosure 5 Attendance Sheet

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