

January 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: Lawrence Burkhart, Acting Chief  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Anthony Minarik, Project Manager */RA/*  
Licensing Branch 4  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING WITH SOUTHERN NUCLEAR  
COMPANY, SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS,  
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY, AND SHAW ON  
NOVEMBER 19, 2012

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a Category 2 public meeting on November 19, 2012, with Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC), South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G), Westinghouse Electric Company (Westinghouse), and Shaw to discuss current challenges and solutions to problems related to building new nuclear power plants according to their licensing basis. Westinghouse, SNC, and SCE&G provided the NRC with a slide presentation describing their corrective action programs (CAP), oversight roles, change processes, and overall commitment to ensuring safety and compliance. During and after the presentations, the NRC had an opportunity to question the licensees, and the public in turn directed questions and comments toward the NRC after the staff from the NRC concluded their questions.

Enclosed are the meeting agenda (Enclosure 1), the meeting attendees list (Enclosure 2), the slide presentation (Enclosure 3), and a letter from SNC dated March 23, 2012, brought into the discussion by public comment (Enclosure 4). Enclosures 3 and 4 can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under Accession Numbers ML12321A339 and ML12087A152 respectively.

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Representatives from Westinghouse began the meeting by introducing the topic of Licensing Plants under Part 52 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR). They presented that Westinghouse, SNC, SCE&G, and Shaw work together in a consortium to ensure that all parties involved with the construction of the new plants at Vogtle and Summer understand the current issues and their plans for how to resolve them. Westinghouse representatives also presented information regarding the "Licensing Basis Review" and how the review of all their documents to ensure accuracy and completeness has already led to current and upcoming License Amendment Requests. Finally, Westinghouse discussed their procurement review plans associated with how they ensure external manufacturers are building components as described in the current licensing basis. Following the presentation from Westinghouse, representatives from SNC and SCE&G presented on the actions they were taking to improve their oversight of their vendors. The details of all the presentations can be found in Enclosure 3.

After the presentation, NRC management questioned the licensees and Westinghouse on the information. The NRC made the distinction clear that the licensees are ultimately responsible, and should be leading the oversight efforts as part of their Quality Assurance Programs. The NRC encouraged collaboration and communication between all the parties involved in the construction effort, but made clear that the consortium is not the licensee. The NRC asked how prioritization is done when issues are found through the Westinghouse review, and Westinghouse responded that these decisions are made as part of the CAP and based on potential or actual holds on the construction process. The NRC also pointed out that these issues are unique to Part 52 licenses, because in Part 50 all of these changes would be reviewed after the plant was constructed and during the Operating License review. This difference is seen as a positive in order to keep everyone up to date on the current standing of the plant's licensing basis.

After the NRC concluded its commentary on the presentation, a few members of the public had comments or questions for the NRC. Joe DeBoer of Bechtel asked the NRC if the severe accident mitigation guidelines were addressed as part of the application review for Part 52, and the NRC responded that the agency is currently reviewing the suggestion that severe accident mitigation guidelines procedures be required per the Fukushima Task Force. Tom Clements from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability had three questions for the NRC: First, had this meeting provided any lessons learned for the NRC; second, that he has concerns regarding the Preliminary Action Request (PAR) process as it is being applied; and third, if the NRC plans to formally request another list of upcoming license amendment requests (LARs) from the licensee in writing as it did when it requested the March 23, 2012, letter from SNC. The NRC responded that it conducts self-assessments with respect to the construction Reactor Oversight Program, and documents the findings in End-of-Cycle letters which appear annually in March. A representative from Region II also pointed to the fact that this process is in itself a learning experience, and already the NRC sees improvement as problems are dealt with immediately rather than lingering around as they did in the Part 50 process. On the second issue, representatives from the Division of New Reactor Licensing assured Mr. Clements that the PAR process is utilized as a way for the project to move forward at the licensee's risk however it does not mean the license amendment has any kind of tacit or unstamped approval. Finally, Mr. Clements was invited to participate on weekly NRC meetings regarding licensing issues, in order to keep up with the planned LARs. The final questions and comments from the public came from Bill Freebairn: first, is there going to be any specific action taken by the NRC as a result of this meeting; second, why does the NRC say the CAP is acceptable if there continues to be issues; third, directed at the licensee, are the problems over? The NRC stated that the purpose of this meeting was to make the information available to all parties regarding this topic.

L. Burkhart

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There are ongoing inspections regarding the Quality Assurance Programs and CAPs of the licensees, and this meeting helps inform inspectors on what they can focus on or what they can expect. Regarding the results of inspections and whether or not they correspond with the licensee's findings, the NRC pointed out that these inspections are continuous, they do not end, and as problems arise, the NRC will respond accordingly. Finally, the licensee chose to answer the question directed at them by stating they can't say that the problem has been fixed, but they do have confidence that they are being proactive in seeking out possible issues, and taking the proper actions.

Docket Nos.: 052-025  
052-026  
052-027  
052-028

Enclosures:  
As stated

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052-028

Enclosures:  
As stated

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NRC-001

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DATE	12/27/2012	01/10/2013	01/14/2013

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## AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING

### U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC)

Monday, November 19, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.

**PURPOSE:** To discuss the status of construction of AP1000 plants at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Southern Nuclear Company) and the Virgil C. Summer sites (SCE&G) including lessons learned related to the need and requirement of ensuring construction is undertaken in accordance with the combined license and various licensing basis documents and regulations.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Led By</u>
1:00 p.m.	Opening Remarks/Purpose of the Meeting	NRC
1:10 p.m.	Introductions	NRC/ALL
1:20 p.m.	Issues related to Constructing to Licensing Basis	SNC/SCE&G/NRC
	-Introduction of the issue	
	-Background on relevant issues found regarding construction and the licensing basis	
	--Specific challenges	
	--Actions taken by SNC/SCE&G including addressing the extent of the condition	
	--Results of initial investigations	
	---Cause of the challenges	
	-SNC/SCE&G processes being put in place to address the issues going forward	
	--integrated corrective action programs	
	--licensees oversight improvements	
	--construction team (licensee and contractors/vendors) synergy to address constructing to licensing basis issues	
	-Future plans by licensees	
	Feedback/questions from the NRC throughout	NRC
<b>2:50 p.m. (approx.)</b>	Opportunity for Public Comment	PUBLIC
<b>3:10 p.m.</b>	Conclusion/Document Actions	NRC
<b>3:20 p.m.</b>	Adjourn	

Enclosure 1

**ATTENDEES LIST  
NOVEMBER 19, 2012**

(\*= joined via teleconference)

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F. Brown  
D. Decker  
C. Weber  
M. Brown  
Z. Gran  
D. McGovern  
A. Issa  
P. Buckberg  
J. Beardsley  
K. Chung  
M. Comar  
I. Spival  
A. Minarik  
S. Williams  
A. Cabbage  
A. Johnson  
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C. Ogle\*  
J. Yerokun\*  
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R. Mathis\*  
G. Crespo\*  
C. Oelstrom\*  
A. Ponko\*  
A. Masters\*  
J. Fuller\*  
C. Abbot\*

Westinghouse

M. Corletti  
T. Dent  
T. Geer  
P. Russ  
T. Silva

Southern Nuclear Company

T. McCallum  
C. Pierce  
P. Ivey  
A. Aughtman

South Carolina Electric & Gas

B. Stokes  
R. Jons

Shaw

M. Allen

Public ( – affiliation)

F. Hedin – EDF Inc  
J. Bergman – Scientech  
J. DeBor – Bechtel  
J. Lin – Bechtel  
S. Franzone – FPL  
T. Wilkens – Duke\*  
D. Waters – Duke\*  
R. Bell – NEI  
K. Austgen – NEI  
T. Clements – ANA\*  
S. McInall – JEA\*  
S. Roetger – GPSC\*  
B. Freebairn – Platts Nucleonics Week\*

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS:

EDF Inc – Electricity, Nuclear Power & Energy  
Policy  
FPL – Florida Power & Light  
Duke – Duke Energy  
NEI – Nuclear Energy Institute  
ANA – Alliance for Nuclear Accountability  
JEA – Jacksonville Electric Authority  
GPSC – Georgia Public Service Commission

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(Revised 09/26/2012)

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