

February 26, 2013

ORGANIZATION: National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 19, 2013, MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF TEST, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING REACTORS TO DISCUSS STAFFING, WASTE CONFIDENCE DECISION, FUKUSHIMA, UPCOMING MEETINGS, COMMUNICATIONS, CYBER SECURITY, IMPROVING 10 CFR 50.59 PERFORMANCE, AND LIMITS ON TRIGA PULSES

On February 19, 2013, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and the National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors (TRTR) at NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, and via teleconference. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss staffing changes in the NRC Research and Test Reactor Licensing and Oversight Branches, recent news in the Federal government, the waste confidence decision, upcoming meetings of interest to the TRTR community, recent NRC generic communications, cyber security, improving Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.59 performance, and limits on TRIGA pulses based on General Atomics recommendations. An updated agenda for the meeting has been included as Enclosure 1 and a list of attendees is provided as Enclosure 2.

NRC staff informed members of the TRTR that Lawrence Kokajiko has been selected as the new Director of the Division of Policy and Rulemaking. He will begin on February 25, 2013. Since Timothy McGinty left, Mary Muesle has been acting division director. Alexander Adams has been chosen as the new branch chief of the Research and Test Reactor Licensing Branch (PRLB). Additionally, Margaret (Maggie) Watford will be joining PRLB in the Nuclear Safety Professional Development Program. She currently is attending Purdue University. NRC staff informed the TRTR that there are two open positions within the research and test reactor (RTR) branches at the NRC: one for a nuclear engineer in PRLB and one for a security specialist in the Research and Test Reactor Oversight Branch.

The NRC staff provided a status update on the waste confidence decision. RTR staff is continuing to work with the NRC's Office of General Council, the NRC's Waste Confidence Directorate, and other NRC staff to address the court decision.

Concerning lessons learned from Fukushima, staff informed TRTR members that the agency is still evaluating potential impacts on RTRs. A framework is being developed; more information will be available in the coming months. Additional questions on this topic may be addressed to John Adams of the NRC.

There are several meetings of interest for the TRTR community. NRC staff informed the TRTR of the upcoming Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) held at NRC headquarters from March 12 – 14, 2013. The registration for the RIC ends on February 26, 2013. The 2013

National Nuclear Security Administration Moly-99 Topical Meeting will be taking place in Chicago from April 1 – 4, 2013. Registration will end on March 1, 2013. The International Conference on Nuclear Security will be held from July 1 – 5, 2013. Also, the International Group on Research Reactors Conference and International Atomic Energy Agency Meeting on Research Reactor Modernization, Refurbishment and Aging Management will be from October 13 – 18, 2013.

The NRC staff mentioned that there have been three information notices (INs) issued since the last TRTR meeting (IN 2012-22, IN 2012-25, and IN 2013-01). They were addressed to the RTR licensees, but do not require any action on their part. The generic communications can be found through the NRC's public webpage at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/info-notices/>.

Regarding cyber security, NRC staff expressed appreciation for the input and support on self-assessments and TRTR involvement on the visits. The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation worked with the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response to finalize a site visit schedule and coordinated visits with facilities through the TRTR executive committee. Two have already been completed and there are two more remaining: Pennsylvania State University and Ohio State University. The information gathered from the security assessments will be used, in part, to determine if additional actions are needed. Overall, the cyber security posture at the facilities visited has been noted to be good. Beth Reed is the NRC contact for RTR cyber security.

NRC staff informed the licensees that there have been several recent violations at RTR facilities with regards to 10 CFR 50.59 change requirements. The NRC is evaluating options to facilitate improved facility performance on implementation of 10 CFR 50.59 requirements for RTRs, such as a generic communication or public meeting. Suggestions from the TRTR community included an informational session at the TRTR conference and more information in the TRTR newsletter. Johnny Eads is the NRC contact for more information.

The NRC staff discussed two reports that have been issued by General Atomics that discuss the temperature limit that will be placed on pulsing TRIGA reactors. The report from 1981 (GA-A16613) evaluates fuel damage that occurred at Texas A&M in the 1970s. The report stated a pulsing temperature limit of 880°F to prevent fuel damage. The NRC responded by reducing the limits at the facilities with limits that were higher. A second report was issued in 2008 (GA TRD 070.01006.05) that was put together for the Department of Energy conversion program for the high enriched uranium to low enriched uranium conversions. The new temperature limit on the fuel conversions is 830°F. The difference between 880°F and 830°F is to reduce the internal fuel element pressure by a factor of two. For more information on TRIGA reactor pulsing temperature limits, Alexander Adams is the NRC contact.

Ralph Butler, from the University of Missouri - Columbia Research Reactor, discussed the Personnel Access Database System (PADS). The database is maintained by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). NEI and TRTR explored the use of PADS as an option for meeting the fingerprint rule, but TRTR determined that doing so would be cost prohibitive.

Ralph Butler also briefly discussed the TRTR Conference coming this September 2013. It will be held at the Ritz Carlton in St. Louis, Missouri. Currently there is a call for abstracts. Also, an NRC Day is planned for Tuesday, September 24. There will be further discussion as to whether that will be a half day or a full day.

A public meeting notice was issued and posted on the NRC's public Web page January 25, 2013, and can be found in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under Accession Number ML13023A214.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-7128 or Taylor.Lichatz@nrc.gov.

/RA/

Taylor A Lichatz, Reactor Inspector
Research and Test Reactor Oversight Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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**ADAMS Accession Nos.: Package: ML13051A401, Meeting Notice: ML13023A214,
Meeting Summary: ML13052A001 NRC-001**

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DATE	2/20/2013	2/21/2013	2/22/2013	2/21/2013	2/26/2013

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REVISED Agenda

Test, Research, and Training Reactor Public Meeting

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead</u>
3:00 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	Opening Remarks	NRC (Muessle)
3:05 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.	RTR Branches Staffing Changes	NRC (Muessle)
3:10 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Waste Confidence Decision Fukushima	NRC (Muessle)
3:15 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Upcoming Meetings of Interest	NRC (Muessle)
3:20 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.	NRC Generic Communications	NRC (Bowman)
3:25 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Cyber Security/Site Visits	NRC (Bowman/Reed)
3:30 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.	Improving 50.59 Performance	NRC (Eads)
3:35 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.	Limits on TRIGA Pulses	NRC (Adams)
3:40 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	TRTR Discussion Items	Stakeholders
3:50 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.	Public Interaction	NRC (Muessle)
3:55 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Wrap Up and Adjourn	NRC (Muessle)

List of Attendees

Test, Research, and Training Reactor Public Meeting

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Mark Trump	Pennsylvania State University
Ralph Butler	University of Missouri - Columbia
Jerry Jenkins	Purdue University
Kelly Jordan	University of Florida
Melinda Krahenbul	Reed College
Sean O'Kelley	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Steve Reese	Oregon State University
Leo Bobek	University of Massachusetts Lowell
Stephen Miller	Armed Forces Radiobiology Institute
Bill Vernetson	University of Florida
Andrew Kauffman	Ohio State University
Cliff Stanley	ATR DOE
Mary Muessle	NRC
Greg Bowman	NRC
Patrick Isaac	NRC
John Adams	NRC
Alexander Adams	NRC
Beth Reed	NRC
Taylor Lichatz	NRC
Steve Lynch	NRC
Geoffrey Wertz	NRC
John Nguyen	NRC
Mike Morlang	NRC
William Kennedy	NRC
Ossy Font	NRC
Paulette Torres	NRC
Cindy Montgomery	NRC

cc:

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