

May 29, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Reckley, Chief
Policy and Support Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Rajender Auluck, Senior Project Manager /RA/
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Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF APRIL 12, 2013, MEETING TO DISCUSS
ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF NEAR-TERM TASK
FORCE RECOMMENDATION 5.1 RELATED TO CONTAINMENT
VENTING SYSTEMS

On April 12, 2013, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group related to industry initiatives for the Implementation of Recommendation 5.1 of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century report, issued July 12, 2011, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML111861807). This was a follow-up meeting following a technical meeting on April 4, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13126A154). The specific purpose of this meeting was to continue discussions regarding modifications to the existing Order EA-12-050 upgrading the requirements for the reliable hardened vents to remain functional during severe accident conditions.

The NRC senior management opened the meeting and emphasized that there was a good exchange of information on this topic in the joint steering committee meeting earlier in the morning. It is important that we understand the differences in the staff's and stakeholders' recommended approaches and continue to make progress and reach to conclusions to meet the Commission directed schedule for issuance of the modified Order. In their opening remarks, the industry senior representative thanked the NRC for this opportunity and fully agreed that discussions must focus on the differences and how best to address these differences.

The NRC staff provided an overview of the schedules and deliverables, future interactions, and public meetings. The staff stated the schedule for modifying the proposed Order is May 2013, and issuance of the associated interim staff guidance is September 2013. The schedule for developing a technical bases paper for rulemaking is March 2014, and for the proposed and final rules, the schedule is March 2014, and March 2015, respectively.

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The staff further stated that a close coordination will be needed with other activities including mitigating strategies, onsite emergency procedures, relation with other containment designs, and hydrogen control.

The Stakeholders presentation included a brief overview of schedule and milestones, relevant severe accident parameters, drywell vent, passive operation, cross-flow of vented fluids, sustained operation, Mark II pool bypass concerns, and impact on water injection capability (FLEX) strategy. The industry representative highlighted the fact that design needs to be consistent with the containment capability. The presentation provided additional details of containment venting timeline with accident progression, and possible containment accident end states. With respect to Mark II drain line issue, the industry representative referred to studies conducted at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Electric Power Research Institute and noted that presence of water in drywell may preclude drain line attack altogether and if not, debris will freeze in drain line, especially due to presence of water in the pipe. The Stakeholders stated that mitigating strategies is the key to preventing fuel damage and that they believe the drywell vent and the Mark II bypass issues will be better addressed in the rulemaking activity.

Members of the public attended in person and through the telecommunications bridgeline and webcast. At designated points during the meeting, members of the public were invited to provide any comments on the presentations. Members of the public asked several clarifying questions, and there were some comments similar to previous comments received by the NRC. The NRC staff responded to all questions asked by interested members of the public.

A list of attendees is provided in ADAMS Accession No. ML13134A127. Presentation slides may be located through ADAMS Accession Nos. ML13134A130 and ML13134A133.

Enclosure:

1. List of attendees
2. Presentation slides

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