

September 3, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: Rani L. Franovich, Chief
Performance Assessment Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Ronald K. Frahm, Jr., Senior Reactor Operations Engineer **/RA/**
Performance Assessment Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING ON AUGUST 5, 2013, TO
SOLICIT FEEDBACK ON DRAFT COMMISSION PAPER
REGARDING APPROACH FOR RISK-INFORMING THE
REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS (ROP) FOR NEW
REACTORS

On August 5, 2013, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff hosted a Category 3 public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and other interested stakeholders at the NRC's Three White Flint North building in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting, as noted in the meeting notice dated July 19, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML13198A376), was to solicit and discuss external stakeholder feedback on the draft Commission paper regarding the staff's conclusions and recommended approach for risk-informing the ROP for new reactors. The draft paper was forwarded to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on June 24, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13100A408), and was made publicly available. The meeting attendance list is included as Attachment 1. The handouts that were distributed and presented by the staff are included as Attachment 2.

The staff presented slides that summarized the draft Commission paper, including some background information, the technical basis and examples of an integrated risk-informed approach using qualitative measures, the technical evaluation of relative risk measures and a reexamination of pros and cons, and a discussion of the appropriateness of the existing performance indicators and thresholds for new reactors. The staff presented its conclusions, recommendations and next steps, and then opened the meeting to solicit and discuss feedback from the public, industry, and other stakeholders.

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Meeting participants openly discussed their perceptions of and feedback on the staff's evaluations, conclusions, and recommendations. Participants generally agreed that the draft paper presented sound arguments against adopting the relative risk approach for new reactors, and that the conclusions and recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the ROP performance indicators and thresholds were well founded. Most of the comments and discussions were focused on using qualitative measures in an integrated risk-informed approach. Most notably, industry perceived the staff's recommendation and Enclosure 2 as proposing a specific approach, rather than merely illustrating a concept. The staff clarified that Enclosure 2 was not intended to propose a specific method for combining qualitative and quantitative results, but rather to show what an integrated risk-informed approach could look like; the staff reiterated that the details and framework would need to be developed over time with significant stakeholder involvement. Staff noted its intent to further clarify the illustrative nature of Enclosure 2. Industry also noted that rather than expending limited NRC and industry resources to develop the process proposed in the draft SECY, the NRC could postpone any changes to the current ROP as applied to new reactors and use existing ROP tools until experience has been gained. In this manner, the experience gained during operation of new reactors would inform any changes, if needed. NEI noted its intent to submit more detailed comments for the staff's consideration in revising the draft paper.

Staff noted that the ACRS full committee meeting to discuss the draft paper has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2013, from 10:45 am – 12:15 pm. Staff noted its intent to revise the draft paper to incorporate insights from the ACRS, industry, and other stakeholders prior to finalizing it and sending it to the Commission in October 2013.

Attachments:
As stated

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As stated

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**APPROACH FOR RISK-INFORMING
THE ROP FOR NEW REACTORS**

August 5, 2013

Meeting Attendance

Ronald Frahm	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Rani Franovich	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Mike Balazik	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Eric Powell	NRC/NRO/DSRA
Donnie Harrison	NRC/NRO/DSRA
Lynn Mrowca	NRC/NRO/DSRA
Jeff Circle	NRC/NRR/DRA
Allyce Bolger	NRC/NRR/DIRS
C.J. Fong	NRC/NRR/DRA
James Slider	NEI
Biff Bradley	NEI
Patrick O'Regan	EPRI
Kelli Roberts	Southern Nuclear
Amir Afzali	Southern Nuclear
Howard Mahan	Southern Nuclear
Gerald Loignon	SCANA
Garrett Sanders	SCANA
Jana Bergman	Sciencetech/CWFC
Steven Dolley	Platts

By Teleconference:

Victoria Anderson	NEI
Jonathon Li	GE-Hitachi
Tracy Honeycutt	Southern Nuclear
Elijah DeVaughn	Southern Nuclear
Larry Parker	STARS Alliance
Don Dube	Erin Engineering
Sarah Zafar	Erin Engineering
Glenn Masters	INPO
Ken Heffner	Certrec
Steve Nass	Westinghouse
Dave Pelios	Westinghouse
Amy Cubbage	NRC/OCMWO
Nannette Gilles	NRC/OCMGA
John Lai	NRC/ACRS
Chris Hunter	NRC/RES