

November 25, 2013

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

FROM: Lauren K. Gibson, Project Manager **/RA/**
Policy and Support Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 7, 2013, PUBLIC JOINT STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
LESSONS-LEARNED FROM THE FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EVENT

On November 7, 2013, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Steering Committee and the Industry Steering Committee for applying the lessons learned from the events at Fukushima Daiichi. The meeting was held in the T2-B3, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The meeting notice and agenda, dated August 5, 2013, can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML13296A146. The NRC slides used in the meeting are available at ADAMS Accession No. ML13311A213. The slides used by the industry are available at ADAMS Accession No. ML13311A805. A list of participants is provided as Enclosure 1.

After the NRC made introductory remarks, the industry representatives presented a framework for taking a graduated approach to how licensees prepare to respond to, in particular, beyond-design-basis events. NRC senior management indicated a desire to review the industry's framework concept in more detail and to discuss how the framework might be appropriately applied to specific Near-Term Task Force recommendations during future meetings with the industry.

The NRC presented slides on several issues, the first of which was the NRC's staff review of licensees' integrated plans in response to Order EA-12-049, the Mitigation Strategies order. In general, progress has been made on resolving the generic issues since the last Joint Steering Committee Meeting. There are two remaining generic concerns, Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) venting and Reactor Coolant Pump Seals. The industry submitted a white paper on the BWR venting issue a few days before the meeting, which was later than the original established due date. The NRC emphasized that closing out the generic concerns would allow the interim staff evaluations (ISE's) to provide more regulatory assurance.

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The overall schedule for Mitigation Strategies was then discussed. The NRC noted that the recent audit calls have been very useful for understanding the licensee's plans. The first batch of ISE's is expected to be issued in November. The ISE's will contain open and confirmatory items. Additional regulatory certainty will be provided through audits between the issuance of the ISE's and the licensee's compliance with the order. The industry mentioned that having a pilot plant for the audit would be useful to the industry.

The NRC then noted that recent interactions with licensees have been beneficial to the staff. In particular, the Palo Verde table-top was extremely helpful in understanding the transition from the Emergency Operating Procedures to FLEX. The industry noted that some sites that were visited by the NRC are looking beyond the baseline requirements, and asked that the NRC be careful not to expect every site to go beyond the regulatory requirements. The industry representatives also noted that the plants are getting as much done as they can and that the procedures under development related to mitigation strategies would be used today if needed.

The industry and the NRC then discussed the current challenges for the Mitigation Strategies review. A significant number of licensees are proposing alternate approaches that do not conform to the industry-proposed and NRC-endorsed guidance. This is not in and of itself a problem, but it may lead to longer reviews. The NRC has received requests for relief and is evaluating those requests. (The order rescission was granted for Crystal River in late August due to several factors related to the plant's decommissioning status.) The Mitigating Strategies order interacts with other lessons-learned activities; the NRC staff is working together to ensure a common understanding. Finally, NRC staff is developing options for the long-term oversight of mitigation strategies.

The next topic of discussion was the flooding and seismic walkdowns. The NRC noted that there have been challenges closing out the walkdowns. Cross-cutting issues became apparent during the walkdown audits. The industry noted that they are also concerned, given that it has been a year and there are still staff questions. Both the NRC and industry agreed that adherence to guidance is an important factor in the timely completion and closeout of activities.

For the flooding integrated assessment, the NRC noted that the current effort to work through examples with industry is a good way to anticipate and address problems in actual implementation. The industry and the NRC disagree on whether the guidance that has been developed and the time available for the integrated assessment are sufficient. The industry and staff plan to have additional public meetings to work through additional examples. There was agreement to keep this as a focus item for the next Joint Steering Committee meeting.

Next, the seismic reevaluations were discussed. The NRC stated that the partial hazard submittals that were received in September were incomplete. There was a public meeting during the previous week expressly on that topic¹. Industry agreed that the submittals were insufficient and stated that the information would be provided with the full hazard reevaluation due in March 2014. The NRC staff explained that not having the information now, when it was expected, could impact the staff's prioritization effort, which is scheduled to be completed within 30-days of receipt of the full hazard reevaluation, and potentially the overall review schedule.

¹The meeting summary is under development. The meeting was held October 30, 2013. Two other meetings were recently held that pertain to this topic. The meeting summaries are available at ADAMS Accession Nos. ML13233A300 (meeting held August 15, 2013) and ML13266A424 (meeting held September 12, 2013).

The NRC stated, and the industry agreed, that the submittals in March would need to be of high quality. There was agreement that this should continue to be a focus item for upcoming Joint Steering Committee meetings.

The staff then discussed the status of the Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation reviews. Draft Interim Staff Evaluations are in the process of being sent to licensees. This includes requests for additional information (RAIs). The industry expressed concern about the nature of the RAIs. Specifically, they stated that the RAIs are of very low safety significance and overlap with existing programs that are reviewed under different mechanisms, such as inspections. The NRC staff had not received this level of concerns from licensees in past public meetings or during licensee RAI clarification calls, and also noted that acceptable RAI responses have already been received from some plants and that these could serve as the template for additional plants to follow. The NRC will discuss and review the RAIs to ensure that they are appropriate. The staff plans to hold a public meeting in the near future² to better understand any specific industry concerns with the RAIs and discuss the level of information needed in the responses from licensees to close out the RAIs.

The discussion then moved to the requirements to vent BWRs with Mark I and Mark II containments. The industry will be submitting proposed guidance for implementing the revised order. The NRC staff indicated that it would be ready to endorse the proposed guidance in a timely fashion. The related rulemaking efforts are making progress. However, the NRC noted that the industry can do a better job closing out items from the meetings, such as providing agreed upon additional information to support the staff's development of the technical and regulatory basis for the rulemaking. Likewise, the staff will ensure that it is timely with advanced notice of topics to be discussed at the meetings to facilitate better preparation by the industry.

While briefly discussing upcoming milestones, the NRC and the industry agreed to future Joint Steering Committee meetings. Ideally, the next one would be held before the Commission meetings that are expected in early January. The industry suggested planning for multiple meetings over the next several months, and the NRC agreed.

Several items were discussed as focus areas until the next Joint Steering Committee. They were: flooding integrated assessments, Mitigation Strategies generic concerns, using the first ISE's as an opportunity to learn lessons to improve the process, the March milestone for the seismic reevaluations, the Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation requests for additional information, and the industry's proposed framework for taking a graded approach to preparing for beyond-design-basis events.

² This meeting was subsequently scheduled for November 26, 2013.

W. Reckley

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Members of the public were in attendance in the room, through the teleconference, and through the webinar. Public Meeting Feedback forms were not received. Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1056 or Lauren.Gibson@nrc.gov.

Enclosure:
List of Participants

W. Reckley

- 4 -

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Enclosure:
List of Participants

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DATE	11/25/2013	11/ 20 /2013	11/25/2013	11/25/2013

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

LIST OF ATTENDEES

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The participants from the NRC included:

- Michael Johnson, Deputy Executive Director for Operations
- Eric Leeds, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
- Jennifer Uhle, Deputy Director, NRR
- David Skeen, Director, Japan Lessons Learned Directorate (JLD) , NRR
- Jack Davis, Director, Mitigating Strategies Directorate, NRR
- Lauren Gibson, Project Manager, JLD/NRR
- Greg Casto, Branch Chief, Balance of Plant Branch, Division of Safety Systems, NRR
- Jim Wiggins, Director, Office of Security and Incident Response

The participants from the industry included:

- Maria Korsnick, Chief Nuclear Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, LLC
- James Scarola, Executive Director, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
- Joseph Pollock, Vice President, Nuclear Operations, NEI
- Anthony Petrangelo, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, NEI David Heacock, President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Dominion Nuclear

Additional NRC staff members, industry representatives, and members of the public were in attendance in person, through the teleconference, or through the webinar.

Enclosure