

Charter for the Japan Lessons-Learned Steering Committee March 2014

Objective

The purpose of this charter is to define the scope, roles, and responsibilities of the Japan Lessons-Learned Steering Committee (hereafter "Steering Committee") as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff continues to address lessons-learned from the March 11, 2011, nuclear accident in Japan. This charter supersedes the original Steering Committee charter approved by the Commission on October 19, 2011, in Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM)-SECY-11-0117 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML112920034).

Background

The NRC staff established the Steering Committee in accordance with the charter defined in SRM-SECY-11-0117 to oversee the longer-term review of the agency's assessment and response to the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power facility in March 2011. The Steering Committee helped to define issues, establish plans, and guide the initial implementation of NRC actions related to the accident. SECY-13-0095, "Fourth 6-Month Status Update on Response to Lessons Learned from Japan's March 11, 2011, Great Tohoku Earthquake and Subsequent Tsunami" (ADAMS Accession No. ML13213A304), described the transitioning of many issues to the NRC line organizations, defined several items requiring decisions by the Steering Committee, and proposed to dissolve the Steering Committee Charter. In its SRM related to SECY-13-0095, the Commission instructed the staff to modify the Charter and submit it to the Commission for approval.

This Charter was prepared and approved by the Commission to provide the appropriate structure for the Steering Committee until such time as its activities are closed.

Organization

The overall review efforts to identify and resolve lessons-learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident will be led by a Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will consist of the following members:

- Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs (Chair)
- Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
- Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
- Director, Office of New Reactors
- Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
- Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
- Director, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs
- Regional Administrator, Region I
- Regional Administrator, Region II

As appropriate, the Steering Committee may assign activities to specific line organizations to develop or complete plans to resolve specific issues. A Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate, within NRR, will support the Steering Committee, coordinate activities, and provide periodic reports to the Commission.

Scope

In SECY-13-0095, dated September 6, 2013, the NRC staff described how the majority of lessons-learned activities have been transitioned to line organization oversight. However, the paper also noted how the Steering Committee determined that four issues should remain under its oversight:

- (1) Periodic re-confirmation of external hazards (Tier 3);
- (2) Reliable hardened vents for containment designs other than boiling water reactor Mark I and Mark II (Tier 3);
- (3) Hydrogen control and mitigation (Tier 3); and
- (4) Applicability of lessons-learned to other NRC-regulated facilities (not within a Tier).

These four issues establish the primary scope of the Steering Committee under this revised charter. However, in addition to overseeing these four issues and managing their transition to the appropriate line organizations, the Steering Committee shall also stay apprised of the transitioned activities to ensure adequate focus is maintained on implementation; and, to continue interactions with the industry's Steering Committee to resolve issues at an executive level.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Steering Committee establishes overall direction for the NRC staff in addressing the lessons-learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident, assessing emerging issues, and interfacing with stakeholders. As described above, the Steering Committee will continue to oversee several specific lessons-learned activities until those issues progress to a point where they can transition to the line organizations. The Steering Committee's role is to assess, provide direction, and help the staff overcome challenges on the issues within its scope. The Steering Committee will also determine when an activity is ready for transition to line organization oversight. The Steering Committee interacts with industry executives, organizations, and other stakeholders regarding the development and implementation of the NRC's activities related to lessons-learned from the accident and subsequent studies.

At the discretion of the Chair, and in consultation with other members, the composition of the Steering Committee can be modified to suit the evolving needs of the lessons-learned activities under its purview. Furthermore, the Chair has the authority to dissolve the Steering Committee when it determines that all four remaining lessons-learned activities under its oversight have been transitioned to the line organizations, implementation of lessons-learned activities is proceeding without major issues, and interactions with the industry Steering Committee are no longer needed. The Chair shall notify the Commission when a determination to dissolve the Steering Committee has been made, and such notification would constitute closure of this Charter. Notwithstanding the eventual dissolution of the Steering Committee and in accordance with normal agency practice, any proposed regulatory actions or policy matters related to Japan lessons-learned activities would continue to be brought to the Commission's attention.

The Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate (or its eventual derivative organization) will continue to support the Steering Committee as needed. Support to the Steering Committee includes arranging meetings, coordinating the development of policy or technical proposals, and preparing routine status reports. Other agency organizations are also expected to continue to support the Steering Committee as lessons-learned issues might necessitate. Such intra-agency support could include legal, international, financial, Congressional, or public affairs advice. If the need for the Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate extends after the activities of the Steering Committee are closed, its makeup and functions would be determined by the Director of NRR.

Expected Products and Schedule

The activities and decisions of the Steering Committee are documented in agency records such as meeting summaries, memoranda and letters, and Commission papers. Action items specific to lessons-learned activities are assigned directly to line organizations within the agency, and responsibility for delivering on those items will remain within those organizations' normal management hierarchy. It should also be noted that Steering Committee members might become involved in issues outside the scope of this charter, but that involvement would be within their normal line management capacity. For example, the Director of NRR will continue to be involved with matters related to implementation of the Fukushima Orders at operating reactors regardless of the existence of the Steering Committee. As a result, the criterion for closing this Charter and disbanding the Steering Committee is a determination by the Steering Committee that (1) the four remaining lessons-learned activities have been transitioned to line organizations, (2) major implementation issues are resolved or adequately managed within the line organizations, (3) routine executive-level meetings with industry are no longer needed, and (4) the Commission has been notified of these determinations.