

June 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Scott Morris, Director
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: John McHale, Chief */RA/*
Operator Licensing and Training Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE 2014 ANNUAL U. S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION/INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR
POWER OPERATIONS COORDINATION MEETING ON
TRAINING-RELATED ISSUES

On May 7, 2014, a periodic public U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)/Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) coordination meeting on training-related issues was held at NRC Headquarters, Rockville, Maryland. Such meetings are conducted in accordance with the NRC/INPO Memorandum of Agreement dated September 11, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss items of mutual interest concerning INPO's training program accreditation process and other initiatives. Participants included representatives of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation; Office of New Reactors; a Regional Operations Branch; INPO's Workforce Training, Education and Proficiency Division, and three members of the public. The list of meeting attendees is provided as Enclosure 1. The meeting agenda is provided as Enclosure 2. A summary of the discussions related to key agenda topics covered during the meeting follows.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

An introduction of the members of the public and NRC and INPO personnel present was conducted. NRC and INPO provided opening remarks. As part of the opening remarks, INPO and NRC discussed organizational changes and current activities involving mutual support, including the INPO Examination Authors Course and efforts to update the Knowledge and Abilities Catalogs for Nuclear Power Plant Operators.

Accreditation Update

INPO conducted 31 Accreditation Team Visits (ATVs) and 37 Accreditation Boards in 2013. An NRC observer participated in INPO activities at the Farley facility, including the sequester, ATV, and the National Nuclear Accreditation Board (NNAB). INPO stated that they had recently selected a former NRC manager to fill an open position on the NNAB.

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Proficiency Discussion

INPO discussed bench marking activities and actions to implement a new ten-year strategic focus to advance workforce proficiency.

Regulatory Issues

The NRC noted that significant progress has been made to update the Knowledge and Abilities Catalogs for Nuclear Power Plant Operators (NUREG's 1122 and 1123). The current plan is to complete developmental work by the end of this calendar year.

The NRC discussed Inspection Procedure 71111.11, "Licensed Operator Requalification Program and Licensed Operator Performance." The discussion included an update on the implementation of the interim guidance for simulator test examination quality, whether the ten percent remediation threshold is problematic due to the small sample size, and the NRC plans to adjust the allotted time to allow more flexibility for an inspector to observe longer complex activities in the control room.

The NRC presented a status of issues it is working on with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Operator Licensing Focus Group. These issues include simulator test grading, industry feedback on changes to IP 71111.11, and actions from the NEI/NRC National Operating Licensing Workshop. In addition, the Operator Licensing Focus Group recommended adding guidance to ACAD 10-001, "Guidelines for Initial Training and Qualification of Licensed Operators," to give reactor operators credit for non-comparable plant experience similar to that afforded to senior reactor operators.

The NRC stated that its participation in the INPO Exam Authors Course has been worthwhile as it promotes understanding and consistency. The NRC plans to attend the upcoming class in July.

The NRC discussed the pending changes to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" scheduled to be published later this summer. These changes primarily clarify the process for an operator to obtain an operating license for a new reactor. A later revision is planned to clarify the conditions for the NRC to grant a waiver, to enhance the appeal process, and to improve the grading of simulator tests.

The NRC provided a status update of new reactor operator licensing. Operator licensing examinations at Vogtle 3 & 4 and Summer 2 & 3 are scheduled for May 2015.

The NRC discussed the status of the Rulemaking associated with Recommendation 8 from the Near-Term Task Force report that relates to onsite emergency response capabilities. The current schedule indicates that the proposed rule would be submitted to the Commission by the end of December, 2014 with the Final Rule submitted to the Commission by the end of December, 2016. Additionally, it was noted that the current recommendation for training requirements for severe accidents would use a Systems Approach to Training as defined in 10 CFR 55.4, but not necessarily add requirements in 10 CFR 55.41 and 10 CFR 55.43.

Industry Learning Activities

INPO reported that it continues to see benefits from the National Academy for Nuclear Training e-Learning (NANTeL) and the learning content management system. NANTeL is a national web-based system that provides standardized, generic training for supplemental and utility workforce that satisfies the industry and the insurer. NANTeL contains over 300 generic and utility-specific courses. In 2013, about 100,000 workers completed over a million courses.

Emergency Response

INPO discussed various training activities to improve facility response to extreme events. INPO is developing two courses dealing with beyond design basis accidents that will be available using the NANTeL system. The first is a basic-level course explaining how, why, and when the industry's Diverse and Flexible Coping Capability, or FLEX, program would be exercised. The second is an advanced course dealing with how to implement FLEX strategies including the acquisition of support and equipment from a Regional Response Center.

INPO is also developing crisis leadership training to equip decision makers to handle stress during a crisis. In addition, INPO is developing three case studies that focus on decision making during extreme external events, specifically, at Turkey Point during Hurricane Andrew, at Browns Ferry during a tornado, and at Fukushima Daiichi during the earthquake and tsunami.

Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Training

An NRC branch chief mentioned that he was seeing a number of untimely requests for waivers of ACAD 10-001 experience requirements shortly before the scheduled date of NRC administered examinations.

A representative from the Professional Reactor Operator Society discussed the impacts on plant operations staff caused by the focus on Fukushima Daiichi activities.

Closing Remarks

In closing, it was decided that additional meetings related to the training and qualification of nuclear power plant personnel will be held. No final positions were taken during the meeting.

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DATE	06/25/2014	06/25/2014

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COMMISSION/INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONS
COORDINATION MEETING ON TRAINING-RELATED ISSUES

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ATTENDEES

NRC-INPO Coordination Meeting, May 7, 2014

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations

David Igyarto, Senior Vice President Workforce Training, Education and Proficiency
Stephen Johnson, Director, Industry Training and Proficiency
Tammy Love, Deputy Director, Accreditation
Charles Brooks, Manager, Accreditation Assistance and Support
Joel Bohlmann, Director, Industry Learning
Brian O'Donnell, Manager, Learning Delivery
Sarah Glenn, Accreditation Team Manager

NRC

Scott Morris, Director, Division of Inspection and Regional Support, NRR
Craig Erlangler Deputy Director, Division of Inspection and Regional Support, NRR
Andrea Valentin, Deputy Director, Division of Construction Inspection and Operational Programs, NRO
John McHale, Chief, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR
Mike Junge, Chief, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, NRO
Hironori Peterson, Chief, Operations Branch, Division of Reactor Safety, RIII
David Allsopp, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR
Richard Pelton, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, NRO
William Baines, Reactor Technology Training Branch A, OCHCO
Timothy Kolb, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR
Mark Lintz, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, NRO
Maurin Scheetz, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR

Other

Nick Pappas, NEI
Ross Snuggerud
Robert Meyer, Professional Reactor Operator Society

AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING
WITH INPO ON TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

May 7, 2014
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Three White Flint North, 1C03
11601 Landsdown Street
Rockville, MD 20852

TOPICS

- Introductions and Opening Remarks
- Public Input
- Accreditation Update
- Proficiency Discussion
- Regulatory Issues
- Industry Learning Activities
- Emergency Response
- Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Training
- Public Questions and Answers
- Closing Remarks