

April 2, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: John W. Lubinski, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Robert O. Hardies, Senior Level Advisor */RA/*
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING BETWEEN THE
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS ON THE
INDUSTRY'S BURIED PIPING AND UNDERGROUND PIPING AND
TANKS INITIATIVE

On January 21, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a Category 2 public meeting with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute, the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, NACE International (formerly known as the National Association of Corrosion Engineers) and other industry representatives at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. This public meeting was one in an ongoing series of interactions between NRC staff, industry representatives and other stakeholders to understand the scope and schedule for industry activities related to degradation of buried and underground piping and tanks. Minutes of previous meetings are available at Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Numbers ML093070162, ML100810295, ML103230366, ML11137A171, ML113210661, ML12116A043, ML13050A590, ML13301A792, ML13133A206 and ML14184B374. A list of meeting attendees is enclosed. The meeting notice and agenda is available at ADAMS Accession Number ML15005A426. Meeting presentations are available at ADAMS Accession Number ML15023A490.

At the beginning of the meeting, NRC staff reviewed the status of the NRC's Buried Piping Action Plan. The staff described the action plan activities, schedule for action, and reiterated NRC objectives with respect to buried piping. All action plan activities are scheduled to be completed by spring 2014. The staff provided an update of license renewal activities related to buried and underground piping and tanks.

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NEI provided an update of Underground Piping and Tanks Initiative implementation status. All plants completed all milestones by December 31, 2014 except five plants ceased operations and one inspection at one plant was deferred to a spring 2015 outage. NEI noted that asset management plans will drive future inspections. In response to an action item from previous meetings NEI noted that the industry issued formal guidance for transferring responsibility for buried and underground assets at decommissioning plants from the initiative to the site decommissioning plans. INPO described its assessment role and summarized industry performance and findings with respect to the initiatives. INPO also discussed approaches for future enhancements to the graphical summaries of industry experience.

The Electric Power Research Institute discussed progress and plans related to development and deployment of nondestructive examination equipment, processes and procedures. Highlights included descriptions of buried pipe inspection technology, tank inspection technology, guided wave for direct inspections, future research plans and currently available publications.

The NRC presented a summary of results from the TI-182 inspections. The inspection results indicated all operating plants participated in the initiative in a committed fashion.

A representative of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) discussed the status of Section XI buried piping activities, including plans and progress in the "Task Group Buried Component Inspection and Testing." This task group is developing potential changes to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code to address inspection, testing, mitigation, repair, replacement and design of buried and underground piping.

A representative of NACE International described ongoing activities in NACE Task Group 404, "Nuclear Buried Piping," to develop buried piping inspection, assessment and corrosion prevention standards optimized for nuclear power plant applications.

The following new action items were recorded at this meeting:

- 1) There has been one plant that needed to deviate from the initiative schedule in order to complete the inspections. The inspections are scheduled to be completed during the spring outage. NEI took an action to inform the plant of NRC interest in the deviation. NEI will seek to have the plant inform the NRC when the inspections have been completed.
- 2) The next meeting should include a presentation by industry on the manner in which future inspection planning is incorporated into asset management plans.
- 3) NEI will provide the updated program status presentation (this was completed after the meeting).

J. Lubinski

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The next meeting is scheduled for October 2015, at NRC headquarters.

Enclosure:
Attendance list

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*concurred via email

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