

October 8, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Junge, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction Inspection
& Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Jim Kellum **/RA/**
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction, Inspection
& Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2015, PUBLIC MEETING WITH
THE NEI OPERATOR LICENSING FOCUS GROUP FOR NEW
REACTORS

On September 22, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a category 2 public meeting with the NEI Operator Licensing Focus Group on New Reactor Operator Licensing at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. This meeting is typically held on a quarterly basis to discuss scheduling and the ongoing issues and challenges to administering licensed operator examinations for new reactors. Enclosure 1 lists the attendees at the meeting. Enclosure 2 is the meeting agenda.

The General Electric (GE) representative requested information from the meeting attendees on the process used and lessons learned in developing the Knowledge and Abilities (K/A) catalogs for their new designs. GE would like to apply the same process and lessons learned in developing a K/A catalog for the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) design. GE was informed there was a K/A catalog for the GE Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) design; NUREG-2104 that may be useful as a starting point for developing the ESBWR catalog. A general group discussion provided background information on development of the K/A catalogs for both the AP1000 and ABWR designs during which the APOG offered additional insights on the development process based on past lessons learned. It was also recommended that the development begin at least three years prior to the catalog being needed.

The AP-1000 draft K/A catalog, (NUREG-2103), is currently out for public comment; the question was raised regarding when the catalog would be revised to incorporate comments and the final catalog issued. Originally, the final NUREG-2103 revision 0 was to be issued after the first refueling outage. With the delays in projected fuel load dates, VC Summer proposed finalizing the catalog after the third operator licensing class exam. Vogtle asked when the importance ratings of the K/As would be re-rated. After much discussion it was agreed this would be a topic for the next meeting.

CONTACT: Jim Kellum, NRO/DCIP
(301) 415-5305

Neither VC Summer nor Vogtle have a plant reference simulator. Vogtle has submitted a request for a commission approved simulator (CAS) as allowed under 10 CFR 55.46(b) and that request is in the early stages of review by the NRC staff. The VC Summer CAS request has been suspended. VC Summer outlined their plans for operator licensing exams in 2016. They plan on an NRC written exam in April 2016 and an operating exam sometime later, after simulator issues are resolved. The NRC pointed out that this approach would result in divergence of the NRC written exam and operating test dates by more than 30 days, and that the divergence has not been approved at this time. Vogtle then outlined their plans for NRC operator licensing exams in 2016. Vogtle plans to have their simulator ready to support licensing exams for an April 2016 exam and this will allow the written and operating portions of the exam to be administered within 30 days as required by NUREG-1021. They plan on a second exam in October 2016.

This NRC/NEI/APOG meeting has been held on a quarterly basis for more than five years. Two of the last four meetings have been cancelled due to lack of topics to justify a meeting. A discussion was held regarding the appropriate frequency for these meetings and also if NEI should continue to be involved since their participation at the meetings has been minimal. It was determined that the meeting periodicity remain quarterly and to cancel the meeting if there are not sufficient topics to justify the meeting, with the stipulation that two successive meeting should not be cancelled. Regarding NEI participation, the industry did not reach consensus on their participation. The NRC stated that NEI's role with these meetings with APOG was an issue for industry to resolve.

The date of the next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for January or February 2016 with the actual date to be determined by NRC staff and the APOG.

Neither VC Summer nor Vogtle have a plant reference simulator. Vogtle has submitted a request for a commission approved simulator (CAS) as allowed under 10 CFR 55.46(b) and that request is in the early stages of review by the NRC staff. The VC Summer CAS request has been suspended. VC Summer outlined their plans for operator licensing exams in 2016. They plan on an NRC written exam in April 2016 and an operating exam sometime later, after simulator issues are resolved. The NRC pointed out that this approach would result in divergence of the NRC written exam and operating test dates by more than 30 days, and that the divergence has not been approved at this time. Vogtle then outlined their plans for NRC operator licensing exams in 2016. Vogtle plans to have their simulator ready to support licensing exams for an April 2016 exam and this will allow the written and operating portions of the exam to be administered within 30 days as required by NUREG-1021. They plan on a second exam in October 2016.

This NRC/NEI/APOG meeting has been held on a quarterly basis for more than five years. Two of the last four meetings have been cancelled due to lack of topics to justify a meeting. A discussion was held regarding the appropriate frequency for these meetings and also if NEI should continue to be involved since their participation at the meetings has been minimal. It was determined that the meeting periodicity remain quarterly and to cancel the meeting if there are not sufficient topics to justify the meeting, with the stipulation that two successive meeting should not be cancelled. Regarding NEI participation, the industry did not reach consensus on their participation. The NRC stated that NEI's role with these meetings with APOG was an issue for industry to resolve.

The date of the next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for January or February 2016 with the actual date to be determined by NRC staff and the APOG.

Enclosures:

1. NRC/APOG AP-1000 OWNERS GROUP
2. Meeting Agenda

DISTRIBUTION:

See next page

ADAMS Accession Number:

OFFICE	DCIP/COLP	DCIP/COLP BC
NAME	JKellum	MJunge
DATE	10/7/2015	10/8/2015

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DISTRIBUTION:

Region II Receptionist (hard copy)

RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter

RidsOgcMailCenter

RidsEDOMailCenter

RidsNroDcipColp

RidsNroDcip

RidsNroOd

RidsOpaMailResource

GSuber, RI

DLew, RI

DJackson, RI

JTrapp, RI

AGody, RII

MMiller, RII

GMcCoy, RII

EGuthrie, RII

LWert, RII

LDudes, RII

JYerokun, RII

HPeterson, RIII

KO'Brien, RIII

DRoberts, RIII

MShuaibi, RIII

JClark, RIV

KKennedy, RIV

VGaddy, RIV

AVegel, RIV

SRutledge, TTC

SCochrum, TTC

REgli, TTC

Charles.Sawyer@duke-energy.com

NRC/APOG AP-1000 OWNERS GROUP ON
NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

Name	Organization
Gene Guthrie	NRC / R-II
Jim Kellum	NRC / NRO
Charles Sawyer	Duke Energy
Joe DeMarshall	NRC / NRO
Michael Junge	NRC / NRO
Shane Battenfield	Wolf Creek
Melinda Bogart	GEH
Frank Maciuska	Westinghouse
Terry McCool	FPL
Richard Browder	Duke Energy
Al Harris	SCE & G
Christopher Whitfield	SNC
Paul Mothena	SCANA
Jason Weathersby	SCANA
Wes Sparkman	SNC
Bob Hirmanpour	SNC
Greg Crosby	SNC
Gary Olmstead	SNC
Richard Grumbir	APOG
Pat Leary	SCANA
Tim Dennis	Member of Public

AGENDA FOR THE CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE
NEI LICENSED OPERATOR FOCUS GROUP FOR NEW REACTORS

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

One White Flint Rm, OWFN-09B04

11545 Rockville Pike

Rockville, MD 20852

Bridge Line Information: Phone: (888)946-3508, Passcode 57742

TOPIC

LEAD

Introductions and opening remarks

NRC

Public input

Public

- K/A Catalogs

NRC/APOG/GE

- Update from monthly APOG meetings

APOG

- Periodicity and function of these meetings going forward

NRC/NEI

- Miscellaneous/Emergent topics

NRC/APOG

Public input

Public

Summary / Conclusion / Action item review

NRC