

May 23, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Christopher G. Miller, Director  
Division of Inspection and Regional Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE 2016 ANNUAL UNITED STATES NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION/INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR POWER  
OPERATIONS COORDINATION MEETING ON TRAINING-RELATED  
ISSUES

On May 3, 2016, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a public coordination meeting on training-related issues with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) 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 (NRR); Office of New Reactors (NRO); a Regional Operations Branch; INPO's Workforce Training, Education and Proficiency Division, and 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 NRC and INPO personnel present along with those participating via the phone bridge was conducted. During opening remarks, NRC and INPO both discussed the importance of training and qualification, and the need to maintain alignment between the two organizations. The NRC briefly discussed budget limitations, an initiative to extend e-learning capabilities, and organizational changes.

#### Enclosures:

1. Meeting Attendee List
2. Meeting Agenda

CONTACT: David Allsopp, NRR/DIRS  
301-415-3073

## **Accreditation Update**

INPO reported that it had conducted 11 Accreditation Team Visits (ATVs) and 18 National Nuclear Accreditation Boards (NNABs) since the last coordination meeting. Last year, an NRC observer participated in the ATV and NNAB for the River Bend Nuclear Power Plant.

INPO stated that all future ATVs and NNABs would use the re-designed accreditation process. The re-designed process reduces the number of accreditation objectives from six to three, extends the accreditation cycle from four to six years, and adds a training evaluator to the Plant Evaluation process. INPO discussed insights gained from implementing the re-designed accreditation and evaluation programs. INPO also provided an update on other activities supported by the accreditation group, including participation in the training managers working meetings, the Corporate Training Director meeting, and periodic meetings with the Regional Training Groups.

Regarding new reactors, INPO discussed the status of accreditation at Vogtle 3 & 4 and VC Summer 2 & 3.

## **Regulatory Issues**

The NRC explained its budget and how current limitations may restrict NRC monitoring of INPO activities. Although NRC interactions are delineated in the Memorandum of Agreement with INPO, the NRC is reevaluating how much oversight is needed to adequately monitor accreditation activities.

The NRC expressed interest in reviewing INPO's pending revision to ACAD 1001, "Guidelines for Initial Training and Qualification of Licensed Operations." The intent of the revision is to clarify the eligibility requirements for licensed operations. The need to clarify eligibility requirements is needed since the NRC cannot render pre-decisional determinations on any waivers or deferral requests until a license application is submitted.

The NRC acknowledged the work to update the Knowledge and Abilities Catalogs for Nuclear Power Plant Operators (NUREGs 1122 and 1123). The NRC has reviewed the final industry submission, has no concerns, and plans to issue the NUREGs late this year.

The NRC stated that it is accepting comments on NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" until May 6, 2016. The NRC revised the NUREG to make holistic changes based on the decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to overturn an NRC licensing decision. The NRC acknowledged that there was not universal agreement on the proposed changes. The NRC noted that the comment period was extended from 60 to 90 days to ensure sufficient time for all comments. The NRC plans to issue the revised NUREG in September 2016.

## **Industry Learning Activities**

INPO noted that the Industry Learning Division develops and delivers both instructor-led and e-learning training. INPO reported that about 2100 nuclear professionals received training from INPO's stand-up training programs annually. INPO expressed appreciation to the NRC for

supporting INPO courses by sending staff to present a regulatory perspective and to answer student's questions.

INPO reported that approximately 111,000 distinct learners used the National Academy for Nuclear Training e-Learning (NANTeL) system to complete training last year. NANTeL is a national web-based training system that contains training developed by INPO, utilities, and the Electric Power Research Institute. INPO added new courses to NANTeL, including general asbestos awareness, advanced engineering topics, and training for emergency preparedness evaluators. INPO plans to revise its Generic Fundamentals training material and to release a training module on Crisis Decision Making for Nuclear Leaders later this year.

### **Other Items of Mutual Interest Related to Training**

The NRC recognized the importance of INPO's role in the accreditation of utility training programs. The NRC briefly discussed reductions in its budget and the Project Aim initiative which is designed to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The NRC stated that a summary of this meeting would be made publically available in the near future.

### **Public**

Robert Meyer from the Professional Reactor Operator Society questioned if extending the accreditation cycle to six years was too long. INPO clarified that the accreditation cycle would continue to stagger the evaluation of technical and operational programs, so each plant will be evaluated every 3 years. INPO also noted that the frequency of training evaluations will actually increase since a training evaluator has been added to Plant Evaluations. Mr. Meyer then inquired if the NRC or INPO supported training activities for the International Atomic Energy Agency. Both responded affirmatively with the former explaining that this support is controlled through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

### **Closing Remarks**

In closing, the NRC stated that interactions between INPO and the NRC were useful and should continue. No final positions were taken during the meeting.

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## **ATTENDEES**

### **NRC-INPO Coordination Meeting, May 3, 2016**

#### **Institute of Nuclear Power Operations**

Steve Johnson - Director, Industry Training and Proficiency  
Tammy Love - Director, Industry Learning  
Rusty Shoemaker - Manager, Accreditation  
Charlie Brooks - Manager, Accreditation and Support  
Brian Gollatz - Manager, Learning Development  
Robert Peters - Accreditation Team Manager

#### **NRC**

Michele Evans, Deputy Director for Reactor Safety Programs and Corporate Support, NRR  
Scott Morris, Director, Division of Inspection and Regional Support, NRR  
Chris Miller, Director, Division of License Renewal, NRR  
Maurin Scheetz, Acting Chief, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR  
Michael Junge, Chief, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, NRO  
Gerry McCoy, Chief, Operations Branch 1, Division of Reactor Safety, RII  
David Allsopp, Operator Licensing and Training Branch, NRR

#### **Public**

Matt Sunseri  
Tim Tovar, NuScale Power  
Glenn Pierce, Northwest Training Department  
Robert Meyer, Professional Reactor Operator Society  
Mark Gerdes, General Electric Hitachi Nuclear Energy

**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING  
WITH INPO ON TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION**

**May 3, 2016**

**12:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
NRC Three White Flint North  
11601 Landsdown Street – Room 1C05  
Rockville MD 20852**

**TOPICS**

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