

# U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting Summary

July 27, 2016

**Title:** Public Meeting to Discuss the Need for a Rule for Risk-Informed Decoupling of Assumed Loss-Of-Offsite Power from Loss-Of-Coolant Accident Analysis

**Meeting Identifier:** 20160844

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, June 28, 2016

**Location:** NRC Headquarters, Rockville, Maryland

**Type of Meeting:** Category 3

## **Purpose of the Meeting(s):**

To provide an opportunity for external stakeholders and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to exchange information on the need for a rulemaking action to risk-inform decoupling of assumed loss-of-offsite power from the loss-of-coolant accident analysis (LOOP/LOCA rule) and the related petition for rulemaking (PRM) PRM-50-77. This meeting afforded external stakeholders an opportunity to ask the NRC staff clarifying and amplifying questions on the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking effort; and to provide an opportunity for external stakeholders and the NRC staff to exchange information on the need for the proposed rulemaking to facilitate a more accurate and complete understanding by all parties on the subject matter.

## **General Details:**

The purpose of the LOOP/LOCA rule is to risk-inform the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) functional reliability requirements in General Design Criterion (GDC) 35, "Emergency Core Cooling," of Appendix A, to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," and thus relax the current analysis requirements for considering a LOOP to occur, coincident with a large-break LOCA.

The public meeting was held at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and it was attended by 2 members of the public. An additional 13 individuals remotely participated in the meeting through audio teleconferencing. The meeting was scheduled from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Nine NRC staff members were also present in the room or through audio teleconferencing. The meeting began with an introduction of NRC staff and a review of the meeting ground rules, followed by a short review of the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking history by Mr. Robert Beall, NRC Division of Policy and Rulemaking, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The majority of the meeting was dedicated to answering questions on the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking, as well as receiving comments from members of the public.

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### **Summary of Presentations:**

Mr. Beall discussed the history of the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking and its current status. Mr. Beall emphasized that the meeting was intended to inform and better enable stakeholders to provide feedback on the need for the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking. Mr. Beall also discussed the next steps in the rulemaking process, noting that the NRC staff has not performed any significant work on the LOOP/LOCA technical issues since 2008.

During the open discussion part of the meeting, Mike Tschiltz, Nuclear Energy Institute, stated that one of the things that the industry was most interested in determining is how much work the NRC believes the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking was going to entail. Mr. Tschiltz indicated that the industry put a lot of effort into this rulemaking and then nothing ever became of it. The question is not whether there's going to be a LOOP/LOCA rule, rather, is the analysis in the final rule going to be so burdensome that licensees would not take advantage of the new requirements. Mr. Tschiltz also stated that he believes there's a potential benefit to a LOOP/LOCA rule, but the uncertainty on resolving the open technical issues could be an issue.

Steve Dinsmore, NRC Division of Risk Assessment, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, stated that part of the justification for going forward with a rulemaking is determining the true benefit to the industry of the LOOP/LOCA rule. The NRC staff does not have a lot of information about what the benefits would be and that information would help the NRC staff to justify a rulemaking to the Commission.

Bill Catullo, Westinghouse Electric Company, stated that there could be a benefit to decoupling LOOP from LOCA, as it relates to the installation of a digital I&C system and the diversity and defense in depth analysis requirements in NUREG/CR-6303, "Method for Performing Diversity and Defense-in-Depth Analyses of Reactor Protection Systems."

Mr. Beall closed the meeting by stating the NRC staff will consider the feedback from the meeting and determine if another public meeting to discuss the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking is required.

### **Public Participation Themes:**

During the public question and answer session of the meeting, NRC staff discussed questions on the following topics:

- Status of the technical analysis performed to support the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking;
- The lack of a regulatory analysis for the LOOP/LOCA rule to determine the benefits of the proposed regulatory action; and
- The age of the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking and the effort required to restart the technical analysis and the rulemaking process.

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### **Action Items/Next Steps:**

NRC staff will consider the comments provided during this meeting to determine the content for additional meetings on the LOOP/LOCA rulemaking.

### **Attachments:**

- Meeting agenda - ML16161A070
- Meeting transcript - ML16203A005

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### Attachments:

- Meeting agenda - ML16161A070
- Meeting transcript - ML16203A005

Accession No. ML16203A004

NRC-001

OFFICE	NRR/DPR/PRMB/PM	NRR/DPR/PRMB/RS	NRR/DPR/PRMB/BC
NAME	RBeall	GLappert	MKhanna
DATE	07/26/2016	07/26/2019	07/27/2016

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