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September 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Tom Boyce, Branch Chief,  
Regulatory Guidance and Generic Issues Branch  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Regulatory Research

FROM: Kurt Cozens */RA Carol Moyer for/*  
Regulatory Guidance and Generic Issues Branch  
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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE FIRST NRC STANDARDS FORUM

On September 8, 2016, the NRC conducted the first annual NRC Standards Forum. The meeting notice can be found on the NRC public website at <http://meetings.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20160875>. All presentations given during the forum may also be accessed from this web link and in ADAMS package ML16229A102. The meeting agenda is provided as Enclosure 1, Agenda. Enclosure 2, Meeting Participants, lists the names of the individuals participating at the Forum. The meeting was attended by 36 individuals, with an additional 11 participants attending via a GoToMeeting web portal.

The goal of the Forum is to identify standards needs for the nuclear industry that are not currently being addressed by standards development organizations (SDOs) such as ASTM, ASME, ACI, ANS, IEEE, etc. The Forum is the successor to the Nuclear Energy Standards Coordination Collaborative (NESCC), which was co-sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the NRC and administered by ANSI, and was discontinued in 2015. The Forum is an interactive meeting, sponsored by the NRC, that engages stakeholders, such as SDOs, utilities, research organizations, and NRC staff to identify and develop standards used in regulatory applications; for example, for use in advanced reactor licensing reviews.

Enclosure 3, Significant Comments Made During the NRC Standards Forum, contains additional details of the Forum discussions. The following is a summary of the significant meeting outcomes and observations:

- Several potential standards were identified that will use EPRI research results as the technical basis.
  - SDOs including ASME, ANS and IEEE tentatively agreed to participate in coalitions to facilitate the development of several standards and identify organizational Champions for each effort. The Champions will work with the various stakeholders (utilities, vendors, NRC, NEI, etc.) to develop roadmaps for the development of the standards.

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- RES will work with the NRC regulatory offices and the Champions to facilitate development of the appropriate roadmaps.
- The nuclear industry, represented by NEI, voiced concerns about the need for coordination among multiple efforts to solve problems related to new and advanced reactor deployments. NEI also noted the potential for negative impacts on NRC staff engagement with SDO committees, and resulting increased conditions on standards in regulatory use, tied to Project Aim.
- NEI reported a trend toward increased engagement of utilities in the standards development process, in order to gain efficiencies and to improve communication. NEI is arranging a meeting with utility Engineering Vice Presidents, and they have invited ASME, ANS, and IEEE to participate.
- There were several references to the long time-scale for most standards development, and the widely held desire to find ways to shorten the process.
- The semi-annual management meetings between NRC and ASME were held up as an example of a means to improve communication of organizations' priorities.
- The NRC's Office of New Reactors (NRO) will consider adding an agenda item on standards development to its April 2017 DOE/industry meeting.
- The NRC discussed changes to its internal coordination of standards activities, notably to designate SDO Coordinators, whose role is to facilitate NRC activities with each SDO and establish priorities for NRC engagement.

The next steps to be taken in response to the Forum are:

- Coalitions will help identify organizational Champions and to help develop the roadmaps for standards development.
- Follow-up is planned, as shown in Enclosure 4, Action Items.

It is anticipated that the second NRC Standards Forum will be scheduled for September 2017. In the interim, RES/DE/RGGIB will work with the Forum participants to address the action items. Specific efforts will be taken to work with the SDOs to identify the individual who will be the Champion for the standards development identified in Enclosure 5, Champion Scorecard. If sufficient members of a coalition exist on a topic, the NRC will host a focused interaction to work towards a roadmap for the development and endorsement of an SDO published standard.

Enclosures:

As stated

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