



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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April 17, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Kevin Hsueh, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager /RA/
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 22, 2017, MEETING ON LOW-VALUE,
HIGH-OUTAGE- IMPACT EXAMINATIONS

On March 22, 2017, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives from industry. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss low-value, high-outage-impact examinations. Information related to the meeting, including the NRC staff presentation, can be found in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) package accession number ML17053A979.

During the meeting, industry explained that based on operating experience, it was not seeing any in-service conditions that indicated there were concerns with the examinations being considered in this effort. A point made by the NRC staff on relief requests was that plants making relief requests should not use aligning with their outages as a basis for the request.

Industry also stated that it was looking to develop a generic relief request that could be used as a template by plants while the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) was considering a change to the ASME code.

The NRC staff explained that the technical requirements for eliminating examinations are more significant than those required for extending inspection intervals. Industry cited an example of reactor vessel threads in flanges where it believed examinations could be eliminated. The basis offered by industry was that work, such as cleaning them, is conducted on the flanges every outage and problems would be found during those cleanings. The NRC staff position was that not having data that shows a phenomenon is not sufficient justification to eliminate an examination for that phenomenon.

Because the ASME was considering code changes, industry asked that the NRC staff identify those staff members who would be working on the ASME code for the five projects identified in the industry presentation. The NRC staff agreed to take this as an action.

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