

REGULATORY ISSUES TASK FORCE (RITF)

Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Summary of 03/29/2017 Public Meeting

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) ORGANIZATION/PERSONNEL CHANGES

NRC provided an update of personnel changes within the office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, both effective and planned, impacting the leadership of several key offices. Of the several changes discussed, the most noteworthy is the planned June retirement of Bill Dean. It was also noted that the chief of the Technical Specification branch will be retiring and backfilled by an acting chief for the next several months. The industry shared its desire for continued progress on various issues currently with the TS branch and offered to work with NRC to ensure the smoothest possible leadership transition.

LICENSING ACTION PLANNING, SCHEDULING, OVERSIGHT

NRC reported that licensee submittal schedule adherence had dropped in the fourth quarter of 2016. Of 130 submittals, 60 were later than expected. This is a decline from the 75% schedule adherence reported at the October 2016 meeting. NRC indicated that licensees were communicating changes through their project managers, but that continued movement from quarter to quarter is not helpful for planning purposes. NEI requested additional data on the types of submittals and specific licensee performance so that the industry can assist in achieving better predictability and stability.

2017 LICENSING FORUM

NEI shared that the 2017 Licensing Forum will be held August 22-24, 2017 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. and requested NRC involvement in planning and programming the Forum in order to achieve the same success as in previous years. NRC provided two agency points of contact to work with NEI in preparations for the Forum.

REGULATORY PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

The industry provided a status update on the development of a small set of performance metrics that would measure efficiency in the licensing process and adherence to schedules, cost estimates, etc. The content would support, in part, the timeliness of reviews and better resource estimates discussed in Project AIM Task 19.

The industry has established a contract with an information services provider to prepare the first draft of the dashboard using data from 1Q2017 for internal review. Following a check-and-adjust period, a dashboard using 2Q2017 data will be prepared and made available for external review.

TOPICAL REPORT REVIEW PROCESS

NRC shared current plans for revising LIC-500 by the end of the year to include several improvements in the topical report process, including a prioritization scheme for incoming reports.

At a previous meeting, the industry offered to work with NRC to provide input to the prioritization scheme which would consider the number of licensees that intend to use a particular topical

report and when they would make reference. The industry will work internally to develop such an input. NRC and industry agreed to keep this topic on the agenda for future RITF meetings.

NRC RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 21, 2016 SENATE EPW LETTER

NRC estimated that NRR and NRO expended approximately 200 person-hours in the first (January) response to the letter, and approximately 40 person-hours for each subsequent update. The agency is working on ways to refine or simplify the response, including the use of automated tools where available.

The industry indicated that it is carefully reviewing each response, and intends to provide feedback as to which portions of the response are most useful and which may benefit from a change in content or frequency.

SERVICE LIFE RIS

NRC provided a status update of the draft regulatory issue summary on service life. The RIS continues to be subject to internal discussions, and has not yet been transmitted to CRGR for review. When that transmittal occurs (estimated to be within one month of the meeting), the transmittal will be made public, allowing the industry to review the RIS for the first time since providing comments in mid-2016.

NRC indicated that the current language in the RIS would likely not be self-supporting and that subsequent inspector guidance would be both valuable and necessary. NRC did not believe that interim staff guidance would be used, but that seminars or a training forum for inspectors was the likely communication method.

The industry thanked NRC for the commitment to make the RIS submittal public, and reiterated the importance of having the opportunity to review the RIS and provide comment, perhaps via a public CRGR or subsequent meeting, if necessary. The industry also committed to assisting NRC with the development of inspector guidance.

INDUSTRY UPDATE ON OPERABILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

The industry shared the status of its project to develop an NEI guidance document on performance of operability determinations. The document is intended to establish entry criteria for plant conditions which require operability review, as well as better define specified safety function and the relationship between operability and the corrective action program. The industry will backtest the proposed entry criteria in June and August at two fleets using a sample of condition reports to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed criteria. The industry will then refine draft guidance in preparation for engagement with the NRC in 3Q2017. This effort is focused on process refinements for operability determinations and is separate from a project being pursued by the owners groups related to defining the relationship between external events and operability.

NRC DESIGN COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION PROCESS

NRC provided an update on the process for long-term discretion for certain TS compliance issues. A draft policy has been completed and circulated throughout the agency, resulting in over 325 comments currently being reviewed. Informational training has been provided to senior risk analysts and enforcement staff. The policy is currently planned to go for commission review in the summer with the policy paper due June 23. The NRC stated that a public meeting prior to submittal of the paper was likely.

CUI RULE/POLICY IMPACTS ON NRC AND INDUSTRY

NRC shared a briefing on Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) (Executive Order 13556), including changes to how the NRC would internally handle certain licensee information once CUI is officially implemented with the agency. The industry questioned how the enhanced requirements for handling this information would be applicable to storage and handling within a licensee and between/among licensees and vendors. No clear answers were provided. The industry believes this topic should remain the subject of continued discussion in future RITF meetings or separate public meetings so the overall impact of the executive order may be better understood.

SCHEDULE FOR REMAINING 2017 RITF MEETINGS

The industry proposed two additional meetings for 2017 to be held in July and October. The week of July 17 and the week of July 24 were selected for further consideration.