

June 18, 2018

ORGANIZATION: National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 20, 2018, MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF TEST, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING REACTORS

On March 20, 2018, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of the National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors (TRTR) at NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, via teleconference. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss NRC personnel changes, rulemaking, licensing, oversight, upcoming meetings, and other items of interest to the TRTR community. The meeting notice and agenda, dated January 29, 2018, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML18031B273. A list of attendees is provided as an enclosure. The following is a description of the topics covered by the NRC staff and the TRTR community.

Personnel Changes: Steven Lynch is the Acting Chief for the Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch until April 28, 2018, when Alexander Adams, Jr. will return. The Research and Test Reactors Oversight Branch welcomes Ashley Ferguson who is training to become an inspector.

Licensing: Steven Lynch led a discussion on expectations for licensees' responses to NRC staff's requests for additional information (RAIs). Before issuing an RAI, NRC staff will conduct a discussion with the licensee to agree upon a realistic due date. In addition, licensees were reminded that an extension request is required if the due date cannot be met.

Cindy Montgomery reported on the status of several digital instrumentation and control (I&C) projects. The digital I&C license amendments submitted by Purdue University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are proceeding through NRC staff review. Another digital I&C modification under review is the University of Massachusetts Lowell license renewal, where the request is to install two linear digital channels.

Rulemaking: Duane Hardesty discussed the status of the rulemaking on non-expiring licenses. He stated that public comments are under review by NRC staff and that the final rule is scheduled to be published in Fall 2020.

Oversight: Anthony Mendiola addressed the operator examination process time. Due to a change in staff, the wait time between conducting an operator exam and the issuance of the operator license has increased to between 30 and 45 days.

Fuel Qualification: Cindy Montgomery reported that in support of the Department of Energy's (DOE) U.S. High Performance Research Reactor Project, the NRC staff is working with DOE on a preliminary review of the uranium-molybdenum (U-Mo) monolithic fuel development efforts. The project will facilitate conversion from the use of UMo highly enriched uranium to

low-enriched uranium (LEU) for three facilities: National Bureau of Standards Test Reactor, University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Reactor.

Meetings relevant to the interests of the TRTR community:

- October 28-November 2, 2018, TRTR Annual Conference, will be hosted by the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center, in Newport, Rhode Island, at the Newport Marriott.
- Upcoming 2018 TRTR Executive Committee Teleconferences are scheduled for Tuesdays, May 22, August 28, and November 27, 2018.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-3398, or [Cindy.Montgomery@nrc.gov](mailto:Cindy.Montgomery@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Cindy K. Montgomery, Project Manager  
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch  
Division of Licensing Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: w/enclosure: See next page

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**NRC-001**

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<b>NAME</b>	CMontgomery	NParker	SLynch	CMontgomery
<b>DATE</b>	3/23/2018	4/25/2018	6/15/2018	6/18/2018

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Addressee List for Research and Test Reactor Licensees

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

MARCH 20, 2018, MEETING WITH

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF TEST, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING REACTORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Thomas Newton	National Institute of Standards and Technology
Sarah Don	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Susan Tucker	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Les Foyto	University of Missouri-Columbia
Bruce Meiffert	University of Missouri-Columbia
Guy Steingass	University of California, Davis
Melinda Krahenbuhl	Reed College
Cameron Goodwin	Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission
Hilary Lane	Nuclear Energy Institute
Cliff Stanley	Advanced Test Reactor, Idaho National Laboratory
Leo Bobek	University of Massachusetts at Lowell
Cindy Montgomery	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Steven Lynch	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Anthony Mendiola	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Linh Tran	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Geoffrey Wertz	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Patrick Boyle	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Duane Hardesty	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Spyros Traiforos	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Craig Bassett	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ashley Ferguson	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mary Jane Ross-Lee	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission