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October 3, 2018

MEMORANDUM TO: Dennis C. Morey, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Licensing Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager */RA/*
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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2018, MEETING TO DISCUSS
DIGITAL INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL INTEGRATED
ACTION PLAN, MODERNIZATION PLAN #3

On September 18, 2018, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a Category 2 meeting with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss actions from the July 12, 2018, meeting related to the digital instrumentation and control (I&C), Integrated Action Plan (IAP), Modernization Plan #3 (MP #3), "Acceptance of Digital Equipment." A copy of the current IAP can be found in the Agency wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) file Accession No. ML18016B023.

Information related to the July 12, 2018, meeting can be found in the ADAMS package Accession No. ML18122A134. All information related to the September 18, 2018, meeting and discussed in this summary can be found in the ADAMS package Accession No. ML18241A209.

Prior to the meeting, NEI provided a draft of NEI 17-06, dated September 14, 2018, "Acceptance of Commercial Grade Digital Equipment for Safety Applications Certified to a Particular SIL [Safety Integrity Level]." A copy can be found in the ADAMS package for this meeting.

The initial discussion at the meeting was by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). EPRI discussed its ongoing research work related to SILs. It was reported that the research was complete and the report was in preparation. EPRI expected that the report would be available in November 2018.

When asked if any general findings could be discussed, EPRI responded that the results were positive but that the details could not be discussed until the report was published. NRC staff was told it would receive a copy of the report through the Memorandum of Understanding between the NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and EPRI.

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Industry next discussed the relationship of the EPRI research and finalization of NEI 17-06. NEI stated that NEI 17-06 will provide sufficient information for the NRC staff to evaluate the equivalence of the SIL certification process with a commercial grade survey for EPRI TR 106439, "Guideline on Evaluation and Acceptance of Commercial Grade Digital Equipment for Nuclear Safety Applications."

On the topic of industry oversight of the SIL certification process, NEI stated that there are discussions with Nuclear Procurement Issues Corporation (NUPIC) to perform this activity and pointed to Section 6 of the draft NEI 17-06, which is scheduled to be final by March 2019. It was explained that the date was contingent upon the EPRI research being complete in November 2018 and finalization of the NUPIC oversight process. Further, NEI reported that it would have a better idea of the issuance date of NEI 17-06 in October 2018 when it had completed its updated schedule. NEI took an action from the meeting to provide the NRC staff with a better projection once the October updated schedule was complete.

During the presentation on SILs, NEI agreed that there was a benefit to the commercial-grade dedication process for digital equipment if the SIL process was credited. NEI indicated that NEI 17-06 will clearly describe how the SIL certification process will be integrated in the commercial grade dedication process. The NRC staff suggested a process map showing this integration.

The NRC staff stated that the process appeared to be on a deterministic success path. However, this conclusion was based on the high-level roadmap provided at the meeting. NRC staff cautioned that there were no details and that the final determination would be based on an in-depth evaluation of the details.

Next, the NRC staff plans for the IAP were discussed. The NRC staff said that to provide an accurate update of the IAP it would need reasonable review time of NEI 17-06.

Another topic discussed was how NEI 17-06 would be endorsed if it was found acceptable by the NRC staff. The NRC staff said that it was considering using a Regulatory Guide to endorse NEI 17-06 if it were found acceptable. If NEI 17-06 were found acceptable and development of a Regulatory Guide was undertaken, then MP #3 would be considered done.

Industry asked if Regulatory Guide 1.164, "Dedication of Commercial-Grade Items for Use In Nuclear Power Plants," would be updated. The NRC staff said that possibility of revision to Regulatory Guide 1.164 to endorse NEI 17-06 will be evaluated at a later date.

The sole action from the meeting was for NEI to provide the NRC staff with a better date projection for NEI 17-06 once the October updated schedule was complete.

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