

CERTIFIED

DATE ISSUED: 6/6/80

6/6/80

MINUTES OF THE ACRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
POWER AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS
WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 9, 1980

The ACRS Subcommittee on Power and Electrical Systems met for two hours with the NRC Staff to discuss the development of a possible response to Commissioner Gilinsky's letter of March 7, 1980, requesting the ACRS to comment within one month on how the proposed Nuclear Data Link might affect the role of the NRC in an emergency and also on the characteristics of the Nuclear Data Link, if installed. A notice of the meeting appeared in the Federal Register on March 25, 1980 (Attachment A). A copy of the detailed presentation schedule is attached (Attachment B). A list of attendees at the Subcommittee Meeting is attached (Attachment C). A list of documents provided to the Subcommittee for this meeting is attached (Attachment D). There was one written public statement from Westinghouse Corporation (Attachment E). There were no oral statements. The entire meeting was open to members of the public.

MEETING WITH THE NRC STAFF TO DISCUSS THE NUCLEAR DATA LINK (OPEN SESSION)

1.0 Subcommittee Chairman's Opening Remarks

Dr. Kerr, Subcommittee Chairman, introduced the members of the Subcommittee and noted the purpose of the meeting. He pointed out that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act and that Mr. Gary Quittschreiber was the designated Federal Employee for the meeting. He stated that no requests for oral statements from members of the public had been received with regard to this meeting. He noted that Westinghouse Corporation had submitted a written statement.

2.0 Role of the NRC in a Nuclear Accident

Mr. B. Weiss, NRC/I&E, said the NRC needs the NDL to fulfill its role in emergencies. The NRC's role in emergencies includes the following:

- Monitoring - Verify and evaluate data from multiple sources to assure that proper and adequate operational and protective measures are being taken and to inform the public.
- Advisory - To provide assistance in diagnosing the situation and isolating critical problems. Also, to provide protective action determinations and to advise other concerned agencies.
- Direction - To assume the initiative in making operational decisions regarding licensee actions to be taken. The Commission would prefer that any direction of a licensee be carried out at the site, not from the NRC Headquarters.

The NRC Staff's major constraint, promulgated by the Executive Director is to not physically operate the reactor facility. Weiss does see the possibility of directing plant or utility management under some circumstances but feels this would be from the site with support from the Headquarters Operations Center.

The subcommittee members had a lengthy discussion with the Staff concerning the possibility of the NRC giving orders to the licensees from Headquarters based on information from the proposed NDL information.

Members of the Subcommittee expressed concern that the NRC's "mission" with regard to what it intends to do with the NDL, if installed, has not been adequately considered and that it appears the Staff is proposing to design and build the NDL and then decide what to do with it after it is installed.

R. Woodruff, NRC/I&E, said the experience from drills and from use of the Incident Response Center, which has existed for the past three years, was used to develop the specifications for the NDL.

3.0 Need for the Nuclear Data Link

The Staff considers the primary need for the NDL is to provide the Emergency Management Team (EMT) the data needed to make decisions on whether and when to give advice to local and state officials with regard to taking protective action. The NDL is not for recommending actions to the utility with regard to recovering the plant; however, such recommendations resulting from the NDL cannot be ruled out. Weiss indicated that NRC decisions made during the first three to six hours following an emergency would likely come from NRC headquarters until such time as the Regional I&E Director gets to the site to take responsibility for the NRC management functions. The principal need for the NDL would exist during this three to six hours when the EMT is required to make all NRC decisions.

Mr. Weiss indicated that the NRC will make recommendations to FEMA and/or to the governor. Since decisions will have to be made by the NRC, it is the Staff's position that it should have the best data available to make those decisions.

Mr. Weiss concludes that the need for the Nuclear Data Link was identified in the NRC Action Plan (NUREG-0660). The need was also identified by the Kemeny Committee Report and the Rogovin Report, which stated that the NRC response to the TMI-2 accident was slow and confusing, that NRC did not have needed data, and that Communications to and from the plant were difficult. Also, the President has directed the NRC to evaluate the need for a stronger federal presence in the control room which might be achieved by adding people or by a direct computer link-up.

Mr. Weiss discussed the inadequacy of the direct phone line communication setup in the response center during the recent Crystal River loss of secondary system instrumentation event. He noted that the EMT was called and the response center activated due to erroneous information that the containment was pressurized to 18 psig, when in fact, the pressure was 18 psia. It was felt the NDL would prevent similar false alarms based on incorrect information. Olshinski expressed concern that voice communications could interfere with control room operations.

4.0 Characteristics of the Proposed Data Link and Bases for Specifications

Mr. S. Bassett, NRC/RES, said that V. Stello and H. Denton requested that RES investigate the feasibility and the scoping of a NDL. RES was asked to look at whether it would be useful, what its characteristics should be, and what could be done in a short time. NRR and I&E submitted a research project request and RES asked Sandia to determine costs and feasibility based on some specifications developed jointly by Sandia and the NRC Staff. A few of the characteristics are as follows:

- Data will come largely from existing sensors and the plant process computer.
- Equipment will be commercially available, not uniquely designed for this application.
- The NDL will monitor about 80 reactors with about 120 parameters each (80 plant and 40 environmental parameters per plant).
- The NDL will not monitor the status of equipment, but will show parameters only. Status monitoring will only be done at the plant site.
- Data will be stored in memory for 30 minutes at the Headquarters Operation Center for recall at the beginning or during an emergency.

The estimated NRC cost to install and operate the NDL through FY 1983 is \$23.5 million. Annual operating and maintenance cost for FY 1983 is \$1.8 million. In addition, the utilities would have to provide some equipment and manpower to connect and maintain the connections to the NDL.

Mr. Bassett noted that licensees are now implementing an on-site technical support center (TSC) which requires a substantial fraction of the data being proposed for the NDL. The NRC feels the NDL data is a minimum list of parameters for the TSC. New dedicated computers will be needed and it is universally accepted by the utilities that they need this on-site capability. Bassett said the TSC is driving the NRC down a stream of considerable help for the NDL.

5.0 Conclusions/Remarks

Members of the Subcommittee recognized the need for some system for providing data but felt that a better understanding was needed concerning where the money would come from, and what, if any, programs would have to be cut to provide the funds for the NDL. The Subcommittee felt this was a very important consideration in whether the NRC should install the NDL.

The NDL is presently a "paper study" with Category III priority. I&E will go to the Commission and ask for their blessing to go ahead with the program. If the Commission agrees, then funding will be requested from Congress in a future budget.

The Subcommittee asked the NRC Staff to provide the Full ACRS at its April 10 through 12, 1980 meeting with basically the same information provided to the Subcommittee.

Members of the Subcommittee expressed their opinion that the NRC role in an emergency would not be changed due to the use of a NDL. It was felt that in any emergency where decisions are crucial that the NRC

would not depend on the proposed NDL unless its reliability was extremely high.

NOTE: For additional details, a complete transcript of the meeting is available in the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H St., N.W., Washington, DC 20555 or from International Verbatim Reporters, Inc., 499 South Capitol Street, S.W., Suite 107, Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 484-3550.

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION**

**Advisory Committee on Reactor
Safeguards, Subcommittee on Power
and Electrical Systems; Meeting**

An ACRS Subcommittee on Power and Electrical Systems will hold a meeting on April 9, 1980 in Room 1046, 1717 H Street NW., Washington, D.C. to discuss the nuclear data (NNDL), presently being considered by NRC as part of the TMI-2 Accident Action Plans. Notice of this meeting was published March 19, 1980.

In accordance with the procedures outlined in the Federal Register on October 1, 1979 (44 FR 56408), oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, recording will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting when a transcript is being kept, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and Staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Designated Federal Employee as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow the necessary time during the meeting for such statements.

The agenda for this meeting shall be as follows: Wednesday, April 9, 1980, 2 p.m. until the conclusion of business.

The Subcommittee may meet in Executive Session, with any of its consultants who may be present, to explore and exchange their preliminary opinions regarding matters which should be considered during the meeting.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Subcommittee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC Staff, their consultants, and other interested persons.

In addition, it may be necessary for the Subcommittee to hold one or more closed sessions for the purpose of exploring matters involving proprietary information. I have determined, in accordance with Subsection 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-483), that, should such sessions be required, it is necessary to close these sessions to protect proprietary information. See 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting

has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted for the presentations can be obtained by a prepaid telephone call to the cognizant Designated Federal Employee, Mr. Gary Quittschreiber (telephone 202/634-3267) between 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST.

Dated: March 20, 1980.

John C. Hoyle,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 80-8010 Filed 3-24-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7580-01-M

Attachment A

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE
 POWER AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
 APRIL 9, 1980
 ROOM 1046, 1717 H STREET, N.W.
 WASHINGTON, DC

	<u>PRESENTATION TIME</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE TIME</u>
MEETING WITH THE NRC STAFF ON THE NUCLEAR DATA LINK		
1.0 Subcommittee Chairman's Opening Remarks		2:00 pm
2.0 NRC Staff Presentations		
2.1 Need for a Nuclear Data Link Discuss Cost/Benefit	10 min	2:05 pm
2.2 Role of the NRC in a Nuclear Accident	10 min	2:25 pm
2.3 Characteristics of Proposed Data Link Bases for specifications and Selection of Parameters	10 min	3:00 pm
2.4 Sandia Design Research Program. Discuss Scope, Budget, and Results to Date	10 min	3:40 pm
3.0 Caucus		3:55 pm
- Conclusions/Remarks		
- Discuss Presentations to ACRS at April 10th Meeting		
ADJOURNMENT		4:00 pm

- NOTE: (1) A maximum of 10 minutes will be allowed for receiving oral statements from members of the public if requested.
- (2) The speakers should limit their prepared presentations to the time allowed. An allowance has been made for questioning by the Subcommittee.

ACRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
POWER AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS
WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 9, 1980

ATTENDEES LIST

ACRS

W. Kerr, Chairman
J. Ebersole
W. Mathis
J. Ray
J. C. Mark
C. Siess
D. Okrent
G. R. Quittschreiber*

*Designated Federal Employee

EPRI

R. Leyse

U.S. SENATE

D. D. Carlson

ROCHESTER GAS & ELECTRIC

G. Daniels

BCS

B. K. Feamster
W. L. McKeown

NRC

O. E. Bassett
L. Beltracchi
R. W. Woodruff
R. Feit
F. Arsenault
J. Olshinski
G. Zech

SANDIA LABS

J. P. Long

DUKE POWER CO.

R. L. Dobson

PLANNING RESEARCH CORP

J. Morrison

B&W

R. Borsum

IVRI REPORTING

N. DiPalo
D. E. Berlin

DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
THIS MEETING

1. Viewgraphs shown at the meeting are provided in the meeting transcript and in the ACRS office file for this meeting.
2. H. R. Denton (NRR) Letter to R. J. Budnitz (RES), dated March 6, 1980, concerning Nuclear Data Link (NDL) specification.
3. Transcript, NRC Commission Meeting of February 6, 1980.
4. Commissioner Gilinsky letter to the ACRS, dated March 7, 1980 requesting advice on the NDL.