



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 14, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Craig G. Erlanger
Acting Deputy Director for
Reactor Safety Programs
and Mission Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Ekaterina Lenning, Project Manager */RA/*
Licensing Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 4, 2020, MEETING WITH NUCLEAR
ENERGY INSTITUTE REGULATORY ISSUES TASK FORCE
(EPID: L-2019-TOP-0044)

On November 4, 2020, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Regulatory Issues Task Force (RITF) at NRC Headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss several regulatory issues regarding licensing processes, oversight processes, and other issues. Presentation slides are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20308A602. A list of attendees is enclosed.

The NRC staff discussed with the RITF an overview of the Embark Venture Studio (Embark), an update on planned licensing action workload, recent activities in the Technical Assistance Request (TAR) process, very low safety significant issue resolution (VLSSIR) updates, forward fit and back fit guidance development, high energy arcing faults updates, and several other topics as listed in the meeting agenda available at ADAMS Accession No. ML20297A334. No regulatory decisions were made during this meeting.

NRC Transformational Efforts

The NRC staff provided an update on the NRC transformational efforts that included changes in the Risk-Informed Process for Evaluation (Technical Specifications Task Force-505 and Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.69 license amendment reviews) and next steps, Request for Confirmation of Information (RCI), detailed overview of Web-based Relief Requests (WRR) and Mission Analytics Portal – External (MAP-X) that was created to empower stakeholders with a secure, flexible, and personalized self-service gateway to retrieve, submit, and interact with regulatory related information and assessment tools through a standard web browser.

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The NRC staff presented detailed step-by-step overview of the WRR system, its functions, and next steps. The NRC staff explained in detail that the portal has full editing capability and attachment functionality for licensees. The system automatically generates portable document format alternative request by the form which then is processed through ADAMS for profiling and attachments are added to the package. The system supports all alternative requests under 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(1) and (z)(2).

The NEI representatives asked several questions. Of note were: How can industry introduce ideas to the NRC?

Action items for the next RITF meeting:

- To provide an update on the planning for a future public meeting on WRR.
- To provide an update the implementation of the RCI process.

Licensing Action Workload Update

The NRC staff covered several licensing action workload initiatives including actions taken in response to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), improvements achieved in the communications with the industry during PHE, enhanced workload management process, and efficiencies gained in FY 2020. The NRC staff informed the RITF of recent activities being undertaken at the NRC: risk-informed submittals, workload management enhancements including development of new internal goals and metrics to gain additional efficiencies. The NRC staff mentioned the importance of look-ahead information on the future submittals of exemptions for planning purposes.

The NEI representatives asked several questions regarding metrics including schedules and intermediate milestones. Of note was: Are there metrics that can be shared?

Action items for the next RITF meeting:

- To provide an update on the NRC COVID-19 PHE actions.
- To provide an update on metrics.

NEI Licensing Review Feedback

The NEI representatives provided feedback on the licensing reviews. Industry indicated that cost estimates for Technical Specifications Task Force reviewers and review times have improved. More efficient reviews with less requests for additional information and good communications.

Very Low Safety Significance Issue Resolution

The NRC staff provided an update on the VLSSIR process which became effective on January 1, 2020. There was an action item from the last RITF meeting held on February 20, 2020, regarding open unresolved items (URIs). The NRC staff stated that since the effective date five issues were closed out in ten months because of the use of VLSSIR process. Three regions have used the VLSSIR process and reviewed their open URIs in the first quarter of

2020 to determine which ones could be closed to the VLSSIR process. This resulted in two issues closed.

The NRC staff indicated that an effectiveness review is planned to be conducted in January 2021.

Forward Fitting/Backfitting Guidance Development

The NRC staff provided an update on the development of draft NUREG-1409, Revision 1. The NRC staff summarized how it plans to revise the NUREG to assist the staff in implementing Management Directive 8.4. The NRC staff provided a schedule for issuance of the draft NUREG, a follow-up public meeting, and final issuance of the NUREG.

Update on Technical Assistance Request Process

The NRC staff provided an update on the TAR Process Enhancements also known as the COM-106, Revision 6, "Program Revitalization." The NRC staff informed the RITF that COM-106, Revision 6, became effective on August 24, 2020. Restructured as a fact-gathering exercise to inform decision-making in other processes, TAR will offer a graded, risk-informed approach to screen, scope, and evaluate potential issues early.

Update on Pre-generic Issue - PRE-GI-018 High Energy Arcing Faults Involving Aluminum Components

The NRC staff provided an update on the NRC High Energy Arcing Faults (HEAF) involving aluminum components and proposed path to resolution of generic issue (GI) 0018 (Pre-GI-0018) on HEAF. The NRC staff developing approach to resolve the pre-generic issue on HEAF involving aluminum without additional NRC sponsored testing. The approach will build off NRC/EPRI Working Group project plan, including the EPRI survey, to determine the extent of aluminum in plants and plant-specific electrical configurations. Initial steps will include filling in gaps identified in the survey. The NRC/EPRI Working group is developing specific Zones of Influence and probabilistic risk assessment methods to address the hazard posed by aluminum HEAFs. The NRC staff is planning to have a public meeting no later than the first quarter of 2021.

Endorsement Status of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers NML-1-2019, "Rules for the Movement of Loads Using Overhead Handling Equipment in Nuclear Facilities"

The NRC staff presented an update on the endorsement status American Society of Mechanical Engineers NML-1-2019, "Rules for the Movement of Loads Using Overhead Handling Equipment in Nuclear Facilities." The NEI representatives inquired as to what support can the industry give to help create the standard and how can public engagement help. The NRC staff indicated that information on the cost, types of handling systems, and frequency of testing would be of benefit and will be looking into endorsement on an accelerated timeline.

The NEI representatives asked the NRC staff to let NEI know how they can support the staff's efforts.

10 CFR 50.55(a) 2-year Rule Change

The discussion led by NEI was focused on the proposal of a new condition of operational leakage. If enacted, it will impact multiple areas such as 50.69 (risk component classification), ASME Section 11, and operability determination. The NEI representatives indicated availability for the future discussion.

2021 Virtual Regulatory Information Conference

2021 Regulatory Information Conference will be virtual and is planned to take place from March 8 to March 11, 2021 (10:00 AM – 2:45 PM Eastern Time). Eight plenary sessions and approximately 28 technical sessions are planned. All sessions will be delivered on the virtual platform, which will also include digital exhibits and other engaging content.

Enhancing the Use of Risk Information in 50.59 Evaluations

The NRC staff is engaging with NEI and industry to evaluate the potential to increase the use of risk information in the application of 10 CFR 50.59. The NEI representatives stated that NEI 96-07, Revision 1, may include self-imposed limitations on the ability to fully utilize the change provisions allowed by 10 CFR 50.59. The NRC staff held three public meetings in June, August, and October of 2020. The NRC staff is developing a new Inspection Manual Chapter to enhance the knowledge of and guidance for inspectors on 50.59.

Please direct any inquiries to Ekaterina Lenning at Ekaterina.Lenning@nrc.gov.

Docket No. 99902028

Enclosure: List of Attendees

List of Attendees

Nuclear Energy Institute Regulatory Issues Task Force Public Meeting

November 4, 2020

Name	Organization
Larry Nicholson	Certrec
Deann Raleigh	Curtiss-Wright
Sophie Gutner	Dominion Energy
Art Zaremba	Duke
Phil Lashley	Energy Harbor
Philip Couture III	Entergy
Darani Reddick	Exelon Nuclear
Mark Ferlisi	Exelon Nuclear
Dave Gullott	Exelon Nuclear
Gary Peters	Framatome
Tim Riti	Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
James Slider	NEI
Thomas Basso	NEI
Justin Wearne	NEI
Maggie Staiger	NEI
Victoria Anderson	NEI
Steve Catron	NextEraEnergy
Bill Parks	NextEraEnergy
Mirela Gavrilas	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Luis Betancourt	NRC
Ekaterina Lenning	NRC
Booma Venkatararman	NRC
Shaun Anderson	NRC
Jason Drake	NRC
Nathan Sanfilippo	NRC
Craig Erlanger	NRC
Doug Broaddus	NRC
Phil McKenna	NRC
Audrey Klett	NRC
David Wrona	NRC
Dennis Morey	NRC
Tim Reed	NRC
Gregory Suber	NRC
Joshua Borromeo	NRC
Michael Cheok	NRC
Robert Murray	NRC
Paul Duke	PSEG
Hossein Hamzehee	STARS
Cheryl Gayheart	Southern Nuclear Company
Matt Euten	Southern Nuclear Company
Drew Richards	South Texas Project
Brian Mann	Technical Specification Task Force

Enclosure

Name	Organization
Jon Johnson	Tennessee Valley Authority
Chris Riedl	Tennessee Valley Authority
Marty Murphy	Xcel Energy
Sarah Scott	Xcel Energy

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 4, 2020, MEETING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY
INSTITUTE REGULATORY ISSUES TASK FORCE DATED JANUARY 14, 2021

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ADAMS Accession Nos:**ML20365A004 (Package)****ML20297A334 (Meeting Notice)****ML20365A042 (Meeting Summary)**

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LLPB/PM	NRR/DORL/LA	NRR/TA	NRR/DORL/LLPB/BC
NAME	ELenning	DHarrison	LBetancourt	DMorey
DATE	12/30/2020	1/5/2021	1/08/2021	1/12/2021

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