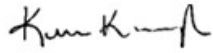




UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 2, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Christopher G. Miller, Director
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Kerri A. Kavanagh, Branch Chief  Signed by Kavanagh, Kerri
Quality Assurance Vendor Inspection Branch on 09/02/21
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION STAFF OF THE ELECTRIC POWER
RESEARCH INSTITUTE JOINT UTILITY TASKGROUP
PROCUREMENT VIRTUAL FORUM

On August 17-19, 2021, Paul Prescott, and Aaron Armstrong of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Division of Reactor Oversight, attended the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Joint Utility Task Group Procurement Virtual Forum. The procurement forum provides open communication for EPRI members and their suppliers to discuss issues related to procurement engineering. The purpose of the staff's participation was to inform industry stakeholders on current regulatory guidance and trends in inspection findings with potential impact on procurement issues. The trip report of the staff's participation and observations is enclosed.

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SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF
OF THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE JOINT UTILITY TASK
GROUP VIRTUAL PROCUREMENT FORUM DATE: September 2, 2021

Enclosure:
Trip Report

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DATE	8/23/2021	9/2/2021

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TRIP REPORT BY THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF OF THE ELECTRIC
POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE JOINT UTILITY TASK GROUP VIRTUAL PROCUREMENT
FORUM

Subject

This trip report documents the participation and observations made by members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Division of Reactor Oversight (DRO), during the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Joint Utility Task Group (JUTG) Virtual Procurement Forum held on August 17-19, 2021.

Background/Purpose

The JUTG, sponsored by EPRI, was formed in 1989. The purpose of the JUTG is to provide open communication amongst utilities and suppliers to discuss issues related to procurement engineering. The JUTG is comprised of procurement engineering, quality assurance, and management personnel from various utilities and equivalent positions from suppliers.

The purpose of the NRC staff's participation at this forum was to inform industry stakeholders on current regulatory guidance and trends in inspection findings with potential impact on procurement issues. Additionally, the NRC staff identifies and addresses issues of concern that need clarification regarding regulatory compliance for implementation of procurement processes.

Discussion

Topics of regulatory interest discussed during the forum included procurement engineering concepts, reverse engineering, procurement oversight of sub-suppliers, commercial-grade dedication methodologies, additive manufacturing, parts obsolescence issues and industry development of 10 CFR 50.69 risk informed procurement activities. These were presentations provided by licensees, EPRI representatives and major suppliers to the nuclear industry. All the questions and clarifications that were raised during the presentations were not new to the NRC staff.

The NRC staff provided an update which included trends in inspection findings, with a focus on control of special processes and implementation of the corrective actions program. The NRC staff also discussed issues noted during an inspection with the implementation of Information Notice (IN) 86-21, Recognition of American Society of Mechanical Engineers Accreditation Program for N Stamp Holders," and the associated two supplements regarding auditing of vendors supplying American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler & Pressure Vessel Code (B&PVC) that are also safety-related. Lastly, the NRC staff also presented on the significant changes in the NRC's revised safety evaluation (SE) for implementing the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) 14-05A, "Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation in Lieu of Commercial Grade Surveys for Procurement of Laboratory Calibration and Test Services," Revision 1. The NRC staff also discussed the SE endorsing the use of EPRI's Technical Report 3002019436, "Remote Assessment Techniques: Planning and Conducting Audits and Surveys Using Remote Techniques During Exigent Conditions," for use of remote audit techniques during exigent conditions. There were several questions related to the procurement of items produced using 3D additive manufacturing and the agency's position on the topic. The NRC staff offered to

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provide the current agency position as part of its update at the next JUTG meeting. The slides from the staff's presentation are publically available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) via accession number ML21231A298.