

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting Summary

February 22, 2022

Title: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Lessons Learned and Best Practices External Stakeholder Outreach for Input

Meeting Identifier: 20220007

Date of Meeting: January 26, 2022

Location: Webinar

Type of Meeting: Information Gathering Meeting

Purpose of the Meeting(s): The purpose of this meeting was to hear information and receive perspectives from industry and external stakeholders with the intent to identify lessons learned and best practices from the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) that could be beneficial for routine use and for future events that limit or prevent access to nuclear power plant sites.

General Details: The meeting was attended by approximately 60 NRC personnel and external stakeholders. Representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute, Entergy, NextEra, Sothern Company, Duke Energy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists were among the participants that identified themselves and provided comments. The meeting started at 2:00pm EST and completed at 4:00pm EST, as scheduled. The meeting was held over the Microsoft Teams application due to current PHE concerns and in order to maximize potential participation by interested stakeholders.

Summary of Presentations: No formal presentations were included in this meeting. Discussion topics/questions ([ML22010A273](#)) that were included in the meeting notice were individually opened for comment. Any participant that decided to provide comment for each question was given time to discuss their comment. Follow-up questions were presented to the participants who were then invited to provide additional comments if desired.

Public Participation Themes: One of the major themes of the comments received from industry were that NRC communications with licensees during the initial and later response to the PHE were a significant aid in establishing and coordinating NRC and industry priorities as the effects of the PHE impacted NRC and licensee resources and plans. Comments were received that the strength of the communications assisted licensees in responding to NRC inspection and oversight activities and assisted the NRC in identifying and responding to licensee regulatory and staffing concerns.

Another theme from the received comments was that licensees recognized benefits to the NRC's hybrid inspection approach during the PHE. Multiple comments were received that while licensee resources were impacted for longer than the typical inspection period of one week on, one week off, the net gain due to clarity of questions and information requests was seen as an overall improvement to inspection efficiency for licensee staff. Industry comments emphasized that the NRC should explore increased use of hybrid inspection techniques.

The staff will compile other received comments for consideration for future recommendations as part of the COVID-19 Lessons Learned Working Group.

Action Items/Next Steps: No action items were identified. Another public outreach meeting will be scheduled in approximately two months in accordance with the lessons learned working group charter.

Attachments:

- Meeting notice and agenda; [ML22014A001](#)
- COVID-19 Lessons Learned Public Meeting Questions; [ML22010A273](#)
- Charter for the Follow-On Review of the Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Best Practices During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, [ML21322A259](#)