

From: tgurdziel@twcny.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 9:53 PM
To: Jain, Bhagwat
Cc: Screnci, Diane; Chairman Resource; John.Esberg@constellation.com; 'Fellows, David E:(Exelon Nuclear)'; Mitlyng, Viktoria
Subject: [External_Sender] Comments on Digital I&C Modernization Projects Workshop, March 23, 2022

Good morning Bhagwat,

Except for two short walks with our dog, I listened to the entire meeting today. I have a few comments.

Does it bother you that it seems everybody is just too important to follow any established process? In this case, (as I understand it), the US NRC has set up four different ways to proceed BUT, that is not acceptable: we must have a CUSTOM response from the US NRC. (Next Era, slide 5, the “hybrid” approach) Why do you allow this? You have available Tier 3, Tier 2, Tier 1, and ARP. (Slide 5 of your “Lessons Learned” presentation.) Why can a regulated entity require you to spend more time and money to change the process? Let me note here that the money being spent either comes from an electricity consumer like me or it comes from a taxpayer like me. In other words, this plant owner behavior is costing me additional money.

As designed, also as I understand it, the ARP process does not allow for RAIs. This is good. Requests for Additional Information should not be needed if the submittal is of high quality.

On your slide 18 from that same “Lessons Learned” series, I think I want the US NRC, (not a plant owner), to tell me what definite consequences of a CCF are acceptable.

About 4:00 pm, Next Era mentioned a problem that I had heard many years ago when I used to listen intently to the goings on at the FirstEnergy/Davis-Besse plant when they had a reactor head thickness problem. It is the movement of project-involved NRC staff and their replacement by people who then have to ask the same questions to obtain information that has already been provided by the plant owner. This is actually costly to the progress of the project.

Finally, let me point out a very useful question asked by Constellation some time after 4:15pm. It is: "When has a topic been covered sufficiently?" Now, I don't know the answer to this but I do know who has attempted to address it. If you followed the goings on of digital I & C in the time before the first Boeing 737 Max crashed, you heard a representative of the FAA speak at an NRC meeting. He explained how they set a limit on how much was enough to do. This was important to them because they wanted, (needed), to be able to say that they, (the FAA, the regulator), had done enough in case an accident would occur.

While I am mentioning the FAA, let me also tell you that the arrangement that they had where they teamed up with knowledgeable people from the industry they were regulating, is probably what the NRC will need to do when it gets into trying to regulate the very latest, state-of-the-art equipment. I know it left a bad taste in the mouth of the FAA BUT, I don't see how you will get close to the up to date knowledge you will need if you don't do it too.

Thank you,
Tom Gurdziel

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