

November 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Emergency Preparedness
& Health Physics Section
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Patricia A. Milligan, Emergency Preparedness Specialist Original signed by:
Emergency Preparedness
& Health Physics Section
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING WITH NUCLEAR INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
ISSUES

On September 9, 1999, representatives of various utilities and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) met with representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at NRC offices in Rockville, MD. Attachment 1 provides a list of attendees.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current issues in Emergency Preparedness with NEI, NRC headquarters and region staff. Attachment 2 is the minutes of the meeting.

CONTACT: Patricia A. Milligan IOLB/NRR
415-1223

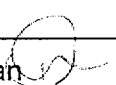

Attachments: As stated

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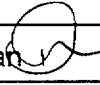

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Nuclear Energy Institute

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Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo, Manager
Nuclear Safety and Regulatory Activities
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P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Attachment 1

List of Attendees

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Dan Barss
Chris Christensen
Larry Cohen
Rich Conte
Paul Elkmann
Tom Essig
Jim Foster
Gail Good
Falk Kantor
Jim Kreh
Patricia Milligan
Jim O'Brien
Gary Shear
Dave Silk
Randy Sullivan
Joe Birmingham
Roy Mathew

Nuclear Energy Institute: Alan Nelson

Industry Attendees:

Martin Vonk	Commonwealth Edison
John B. Costello	Dominion Generation
Donna J. Miller	PSEG
James D. Jones	Niagara Mohawk Power
Norman Hood	Texas Utilities
Fred Puleo	South Texas Project
Ernestine Kuhr	Duke Power Company

AGENDA TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. Post Accident Sampling System (PASS)

The NRC and industry representatives discussed the use of PASS in emergency response. Several members of industry felt that PASS was not useful due to inaccuracy in the samples and the time needed to obtain the information and stated that other indicators of core damage assessment (e.g., hydrogen concentration and containment radiation monitor readings) were of greater value. The NRC updated the industry on its review of Topical Reports justifying elimination of PASS.

2. Performance Indicators (PI)

N.E.I thanked Randy Sullivan, NRR, for providing training and for developing the Q & A paper. The industry will continue training its people on PIs. There are classes planned for Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas. NEI requested clarification on how PIs coordinate with the Significance Determination Process (SDP) /inspection process. Randy Sullivan, NRR, explained that there are two kinds of inputs: PIs and Inspection. The SDP is meant to "normalize" inspection findings so that the input is similar to PIs. There will be little to no inspection in PI areas. The inspector will focus on the inspection not on PI's. There have been 3 inspections to date. The inspectors are to work towards the objectives and not to inspection-hour estimates. There will be no simulator walk-throughs if you are a green plant. This will be consistent across the NRC regions. Industry implementation will begin April 2000. A lessons learned workshop is tentatively planned for January 2000.

3. Emergency Action Levels (EALs)

The NRC discussed the status of its development of a revision to Regulatory Guide 1.101 to endorse the industry-developed EAL guidance (NEI 99-01). The NRC is on schedule to issue this revision for public comment by the end of the year. The NRC terminated its efforts to endorse previously industry-developed EAL guidance contained in NEI 99-07 because this guidance is incorporated in NEI 99-01 and the timing of the NRC reviews is such that the NRC does not considered cost effective to endorse both documents.

The industry raised questions on whether NRC had changed its position on the acceptability of the industry practice of revising EALs without NRC approval under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(q). 10 CFR 50.54(q) allows licensees to change their emergency plans as long as the change does not decrease the effectiveness of the plan and the plan, as changed, meets the requirements of 10 CFR 50.47 and Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. The NRC responded that it had not changed its position but it was considering initiating a rule change to Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 concerning EAL reviews to remove confusion over the applicability of this requirement. In addition, the NRC stated that any changes to its position would be formally communicated to licensees. The NRC also reiterated that it believed it beneficial for licensees to submit major EAL changes because it is difficult to determine if the change decrease the

effectiveness of the emergency plan (because there may not be a one-to-one correlation between the original and changed EALs).

4. Permanently shut-down EP costs vs. Operating EP costs

NRC asked industry for an estimate of the EP budget cost savings when a plant is permanently shutdown vs operating. A. Nelson, NEI, volunteered to gather the data.

5. 10 CFR 50.54 (t)

Adoption of this rule is optional. NRC asked industry to develop self-assessment indicators in support of 50.54(t). NEI and the industry representatives agreed to discuss it and determine the best approach.

6. KI rulemaking and draft NUREG-1633

NEI forwarded letter requesting that the NRC deny this rule, to NRC during public comment period on the KI rule. NRC staff stated that work on the draft NUREG in support of rulemaking was proceeding slowly.