



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

December 8, 1999

ORGANIZATION: Nuclear Energy Institute

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE
(NEI), HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 1999, TO DISCUSS THE RISKS
ASSOCIATED WITH DECOMMISSIONING SPENT FUEL POOLS

The NEI Working Group on Decommissioning met publicly with the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) along with other stakeholders and members of the NRC staff on November 3, 1999, to obtain a status update concerning the staff's ongoing work to assess the risks associated with decommissioning spent fuel pool accidents. A list of attendees is enclosed. The NEI Working Group was primarily interested in what new information the staff had acquired since the preliminary version of the risk study was issued and how the information was affecting the results. In particular, NEI was interested in what credits the staff was giving to industry commitments that were made during a July 15-16, 1999, workshop on reactor decommissioning and spent fuel pool risks. The Director of NRR emphasized that it was his understanding that the staff was adequately interacting with NEI concerning any new developments in the assessment and that it was progressing in accordance with the process and schedule established early on by the staff. He noted that NEI had recently been given a status report on the effort during an October 18, 1999, forum on decommissioning in Portland, Maine, and that no significant changes had developed since that meeting.

Mr. Rich Barrett of the NRC staff recapped what had transpired since the July workshop in terms of industry and NRC interactions. He stated that the staff is currently involved in the independent technical quality review phase of the study. He acknowledged the staff's awareness that the human reliability analysis (HRA) was the area of most concern to the industry. It was noted that NEI had not provided any technical comments on a detailed report of the HRA methodology which was placed in the public domain on August 19, 1999. Quick feedback from the industry was requested if there were specific problems with the staff's documented approach to HRA. NEI wanted details on the how its commitments were impacting the HRA results. The staff stated that the HRA requantification had not yet been completed; however, the draft report to be issued in January 2000 would provide details on the importance of the industry commitments to the final results. The staff requested that NEI provide a clear list of the industry commitments in writing to the NRC. Mr. Meisner, from Maine Yankee, stated that the industry commitments were stated at the July workshop. The staff said that it had been going forward with its study based on the industry commitments from the July workshop, but

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that subsequent information and comments from NEI resulted in some uncertainty as to exactly what the industry was committing to. NEI stated that it would soon be sending a letter to the staff that clearly stated the commitments the industry was willing to make. Mr. Meisner of Maine Yankee stressed his concern about extending probabilistic risk assessment sequences over many days and believed that this was inconsistent with previous NRC practice on truncating sequences after 24 hours. The staff responded that comparing reactor accident sequences with spent fuel pool accident sequences was not appropriate due to the different time scales of the events. The staff is focusing on overall organizational failures in the HRA arena for decommissioning spent fuel pool accidents. The staff also reiterated that it would like to examine the Oyster Creek decommissioning risk assessment. NEI stated that it is working with Oyster Creek on the staff's request.

Finally, the staff and NEI agreed to have a followup meeting before the end of November during which the staff would provide a more detailed snapshot of what progress has made in revising its spent fuel pool risk assessment for decommissioning reactors. It should be noted that the followup meeting took place on November 19, 1999, and is documented in a separate meeting summary.

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 William C. Huffman, Project Manager
 Decommissioning Section
 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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Finally, the staff and NEI agreed to have a followup meeting before November 25, 1999, to provide a more detailed snapshot of what progress the staff has made in revising its spent fuel pool risk assessment for decommissioning reactors.

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**DECOMMISSIONING PUBLIC MEETING
ATTENDANCE LIST**

November 3, 1999

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SCE

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