

December 22, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: Cynthia A. Carpenter, Chief  
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial  
and Rulemaking Branch  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: /s/ Peter C. Wen, Project Manager  
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial  
and Rulemaking Branch  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NATIONAL OPERATOR LICENSING WORKSHOP WITH  
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI)

DATE AND TIME: February 17 - 18, 2000  
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Windsor Ballroom Foyer  
Grosvenor Resort  
1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd.  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

PURPOSE: To discuss issues related to the implementation of the recently revised  
operator licensing rule (10 CFR 55.40) and NUREG-1021, "Operator  
Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." A preliminary  
meeting agenda is attached.

PARTICIPANTS*:	<u>NRC</u> S. Collins J. Johnson B. Boger D. Trimble R. Conte C. Christensen D. Hills J. Pellet, et al.	<u>INDUSTRY</u> J. Davis, NEI R. Post, NEI W. Fitzpatrick, INPO, et al.
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Project No. 689  
Attachment: Agenda  
cc: See next page

\*Meetings between the NRC technical staff and applicants or licensees are open for interested members of the public, petitioners, intervenors, or other parties to attend as observers pursuant to "Commission Policy Statement on Staff Meeting Open to the Public," 59 Federal Register 48344, 9/20/94. Members of the public who wish to attend should contact S. Guenther at (301) 415-1056 or [sxg@nrc.gov](mailto:sxg@nrc.gov) or R. Post at (202) 739-8115 or [rep@nei.org](mailto:rep@nei.org).

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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## Thursday February 17, 2000

**7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 Welcome** {Jim Davis (NEI)}

**8:45 Industry Opening** {Clay Warren (Wolf Creek, VP. Chief Operating Officer)}

**9:00 NRC Opening** {B. Boger (NRC)}

**9:15 History of Process, "How did we get here?"** {B. Post (NEI)}

Pre-TMI to present day...

**9:30 Performance Indicators** {B. Post (NEI)/G. Ludlam (Brunswick)}

Survey data was collected from plants from fall 1995 (pilot process) to summer 1998. Data could only be characterized as "all over the board". This supported the belief that one of the biggest problems with the "new" process was consistency. Consistency was needed on the part of the NRC/Examiners as well as on the part of the plants writing/submitting the exams to the NRC for approval.

Implementation Metrics (Performance Indicators) were developed to gage the implementation of the process under Final Rev. 8 of NUREG 1021. Voluntary implementation during the summer of 1999, full implementation on 10/20/99.

**10:00 Break**

**10:15 Lessons Learned Panel Discussions** {D. Jackson (Salem Hope Creek)/Wolf Creek/Palisades?}

Discussions relating to industry experiences and lesson's learned (approximately 15-20 minutes each) culminating in the generation of a "warning flag list" (to be used by the "successful plant" panel discussion to gage how/why they succeeded)

**11:00 To Write or Not to Write** D. Jackson (Salem Hope Creek)/F. Maciuska (Ginna)  
An industry perspective

**11:30 To Write or Not to Write (NRC perspective)** {R. Conte (Region I)}

**12:00 Luncheon Keynote Speaker:** {NRC/Sam Collins}

**1:30 Exam Development Process Overview** {P. DiGiovanna (ComEd) and NRC}

- Sample Plan
- Written Exam
- Operating Exam

**2:30 NRC: Recent changes in Operator Licensing** {D. Trimble (NRC)}

- Operator Licensing Web-site
- GFES Exams
- Reactivity Manipulations
- Post Exam Reports
- New "Pilot Process" (Sample-plan development and restrictions on exam question re-use)

**3:30 Break**

**3:45 Breakout for Q&A's to Present Day 2** {DiGiovanna/Ludlam/Riedel/Fitch}

- Audience divided into 4 groups, identify top 3 or so questions

5:30 Evening Reception

## Friday February 18, 2000

7:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Industry Success Stories {C. Sawyer (Duke)/F. Riedel (Palo Verde)/K. Link (North Anna)}  
How do the successes "stack-up" against the warning flags?

9:30 Day 1 Q&A Panel Discussion {4 Branch Chiefs/NRR w/ DiGiovanna/Ludlam/Riedel/Fitch}

10:45 Break

11:00 RO/SRO Eligibility {B. Fitzpatrick (INPO)}

11:30 National Question Bank Discussion {B. Fitzpatrick (INPO)}

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Senior Management Breakout Session (NRC/???)

Operator Fatigue issues and how this is related to aging personnel, reductions in the operator workforce and the role of training/operations line-management to ensure a stable pipeline for operators.

Loss of experienced operators...is this an ILO concern or a Requal program problem? Has the bar been raised?...or are there other issues?...Management issues? Licensed Operator performance (in requal) linked to pay/bonuses, management pressures, accelerated requalification for poor performance.

2:30 Break

2:45 NRC: Where do we go from here/NRC closing remarks (NRC/B. Boger?)

- Continued Implementation/Stability
- Supplement to NUREG 1021?
- Future of the Process (Rev. 9?)
- Prioritized list of issues after we figure out what the "sacred cows" are...

3:15 Closing Remarks {Clay Warren (Wolf Creek, VP. Chief Operating Officer)}

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