



Session T24: Streamlining Research and Test Reactor License Renewal

Modernized SARs and the Evolving Mission of the RTR Fleet

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The Day After

- Positives from the recent wave of Relicensing
 - Alignment with NUREG-1537 provides consistency across the community
 - SARs with much more documentation on core behavior, thermal-hydraulics, etc.
- Good interactions begun on definitions, work with the ANSI Standard Subcommittee, etc.



The Day After (cont.)

- Lessons-Learned from Relicensing
 - Tremendous effort and resources expended by licensees and staff
 - Communicate - early and often – to alleviate RAIs
 - Need to continue the trend towards better standardization of Tech Specs
 - Need consensus on detail and depth needed for Risk Informed reasonable assurance of safety
- Concern over what the next round of relicensing would entail

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Non-Expiring Licenses

- NRC Staff have proposed Non-Expiring Licenses
 - SARs in alignment with NUREG-1537 provide consistency for inspectors and staff
 - RTR safety profiles differ markedly from NPPs
 - No regulatory requirement for RTR relicensing
- Meshes well with the requirement to engage in “minimum regulation” of RTRs
- Helps address some of the Lessons-Learned

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Ensuring the Gains

- New interpretations may develop which keep us from seeing the many gains from evolving the regulations in the manner proposed
- Consistency in definitions and housing those definitions in an appropriate place
- Concerns exist over how the Five Year resubmittals will be staggered and reviewed

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Reaping the Rewards

- Licensees and staff invested heavily in the recent relicensing effort
- Non-expiring licenses would be a very significant dividend
- Not treating the Five Year FSAR resubmittal as a licensing action is crucial to actually getting time and effort benefits from this change

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Reaping the Rewards (cont.)

- The RTR fleet will, from this point forward, be maintaining SARs from a common set of guidelines
 - Will enable better sharing of help and insight among the community
 - Will have continuous, incremental improvements via the 50.59 and LAR paths
- The evolution of relicensing is welcome

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Thank You!
