

February 20, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: William H. Bateman, Chief  
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering

FROM: Edmund J. Sullivan, Chief */ra/*  
NDE & Metallurgy Section  
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 20, 2000 MEETING WITH NUCLEAR  
POWER INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER  
STAKEHOLDERS TO DISCUSS STEAM GENERATOR ISSUES

On December 20, 2000 the NRC staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), nuclear power utilities and other stakeholders to discuss steam generator issues. Meeting attendees are identified in Attachment 1. Attachments 2 and 3 contain the copies of view graphs and handouts presented during the meeting by NRC staff and industry representatives, respectively.

The NRC staff opened the meeting and explained NRC's activities over the past year which included the February 15, 2000 Indian Point Unit 2 (IP2) steam generator tube failure Lessons Learned Report, the staff response to the Office of Inspector General Report on the IP2 event and the NRC Steam Generator Action Plan. The staff then presented a matrix which illustrated potential impacts of the recommendations of the Indian Point Unit 2 Lessons Learned Report on the NEI 97-06, "Steam Generator Program Guidelines" initiatives. However, the staff indicated the shortcomings pointed out by the lessons learned recommendations need to be addressed regardless of the regulatory framework. Therefore, proceeding with the proposed change in the framework contained in NEI 97-06 should not be delayed pending completion of actions to respond to the recommendations. The staff stated NEI 97-06 focuses on ensuring tube integrity and reflects a potentially significant industry improvement over the current regulatory environment. Nevertheless, it would be unrealistic to conclude that it will eliminate steam generator tube leaks or ruptures. The staff's safety evaluation of NEI 97-06 will need to acknowledge both of these points.

The staff indicated that there are a number of technical differences that exist between the industry and the staff and technical differences will continue to exist under the proposed NEI 97-06 regulatory framework. The staff recognizes a need for a protocol between NRC and the industry to deal with these issues and this should include periodic meetings between NRC staff and industry representatives. The staff's view is that the protocol should contain a list and description of issues that have to be acted on over time and a method of tracking actions. The staff stated that it would be helpful for the safety evaluation of NEI 97-06 to be able to reference the protocol and requested that industry develop a proposal for it.

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415-3306

The staff noted that although it deferred the review of NEI 97-06 due to activities associated with the IP2 tube failure, it is aware of one significant concern it has with the NEI 97-06 generic change package of February 4, 2000. This concern is with the referenced performance criteria only in the administrative section of the technical specifications. The change from earlier drafts affects the link between the performance criteria and steam generator operability.

An NEI representative pointed out that NEI has a data base to track steam generator issues. He discussed the industry steam generator lessons learned and a revision to the NEI 97-06 generic license change package that will be submitted. This discussion included a list of changes that will be made to the EPRI steam generator program guidelines in response to the lessons learned. The NEI representative also noted some cases, in contrast with the NRC IP2 lessons learned recommendations, where the industry believes guideline changes are unnecessary. The subject of guideline changes as related to the NRC IP2 lessons learned recommendations will be the subject of a future NRC/NEI working level meeting.

There will be an NRC/NEI senior management meeting on steam generator issues February 16, 2001. NEI indicated that, at that time, the industry would like to get a clearer understanding of NRC plans for the review of the license change package and what the schedule will be from Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation management.

Attachments: As stated

cc: J. Riley, NEI

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