

October 17, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Suzanne C. Black, Acting Deputy Director **/RA/**
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON JULY 18, 2001, BETWEEN NRC
STAFF AND INDUSTRY LICENSING ACTION TASK FORCE

Members of the staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hosted a meeting with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and licensees comprising the Licensing Action Task Force (LATF) on July 18, 2001, at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. This meeting was open to the public. A list of attendees is provided as Enclosure 1. An agenda of the meeting provided by the LATF is included as Enclosure 2. Enclosure 3 contains copies of handouts provided by the NRC regarding the integrated quality initiative.

Topics discussed included the status of an initiative to standardize licensee submittals, the consolidated line item improvement process (CLIIP), the effort to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, and the new NRC integrated quality initiative. A summary of these discussions is provided below:

1. STANDARDIZING LICENSEE SUBMITTALS

Representatives from NEI stated that a white paper explaining the details of this initiative was complete and that it would be issued to industry in August. Some licensees are already utilizing the recommendations for standardizing licensee submittals that were discussed during the development of the initiative. It was also stated that this initiative is not mandatory and that not all licensees may choose to implement the recommendations. However, the industry representatives of the LATF commented that they believe this will be a successful initiative and urge further discussion on this issue.

The NRC requested a copy of the white paper when it is issued.

2. CLIIP

It was noted that, as of the date of the meeting, the NRC had received 14 requests for the deletion of technical specification (TS) requirements regarding the PASS accident sampling system (the first amendments utilizing the CLIIP). The industry offered that, after canvassing different parts of the industry, the licensees of 8 of the 20 boiling water reactor plants, and 4 of 5 Babcock and Wilcox pressurized water reactor (PWR) plants intend to submit amendment requests associated with this change. The industry stated that they would canvass the Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering PWRs to assess their interest.

The industry also offered that the limited number of submittals so far may be due to the licensee's availability of resources.

The industry stated that they are proceeding with the compilation of lessons learned from this first use of CLIIP, and suggested that the NRC do the same with a goal of discussing these lessons learned at a public meeting sometime in the future.

The industry stated that they believe that this first use of the CLIIP has been a success.

With regard to the second planned use of the CLIIP for missed surveillances, the industry representatives were not aware that the change would be subject to the condition of adopting a TS Bases control program. The industry urged increased communication of any significant changes prior to publishing in the *Federal Register*.

The NRC representatives acknowledged the need for close communication with the industry on the CLIIP, but stated that future changes that utilize the CLIIP may be contingent on the adoption of a TS Bases control program.

The issue of utilizing the CLIIP for relief requests and adoption of Code Cases was discussed. However, at this time, the industry and NRC are not certain if this is feasible. The industry and NRC will investigate this issue further.

With respect to adoption of Code Cases, the industry offered options to make the process of approving Code Cases more efficient such as posting approvals of Code Cases on the NRC website vice waiting for the publication of a revision to a NUREG. The NRC staff offered that the Division of Engineering, which is the organization responsible for reviewing and approving Code Cases, is trying to improve the process and would like time to bring that effort to fruition. The industry acknowledged the comments and stated that this would be a good issue for the LATF to monitor.

Industry representatives requested a teleconference with the appropriate organization and management to discuss NRC efforts for improving the Code Case approval process. They would like to have this teleconference prior to the next LATF meeting.

3. POWER UPRATES

Power uprates were discussed briefly. The NRC staff offered that additional guidance regarding the information required for justification of less than 2 percent power uprates that are based on reducing the total power measurement uncertainty would be issued shortly.

4. TASK INTERFACE AGREEMENTS (TIAs)

The industry representatives commented that, from their perspective, a recent TIA involving the Perry Nuclear Plant, was handled in a positive manner due to NRC involving the licensee in its discussions early in the process.

5. BURDEN REDUCTION

Comments from various stakeholders regarding possible reductions in unnecessary regulatory burden were solicited at a public workshop and in a *Federal Register* notice. In response, the industry forwarded lists of areas that they would like the NRC to consider. However, industry representatives had several questions regarding this initiative. Questions included topics such as management oversight, resource allocation, and industry involvement and monitoring.

Roy Zimmerman, Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Research, responded that the reduction of unnecessary regulatory burden is one of the NRC's four goals as is discussed in the agency's strategic plan. The agency will use the information forwarded by various stakeholders to build a plan with milestones that will be available to the stakeholders. This project will have high visibility and management support as well as a clear implementation plan consistent with the agency's planning, budgeting, and process management (PBPM) process. It is envisioned that this initiative would be discussed with the various stakeholders and progress appropriately tracked as this initiative moves forward. The current target is to provide a status of the plan to the Commission in late August or early September.

Industry representatives stated that a determination should be made regarding the industry lead for each issue identified for burden reduction. The industry representatives of the LATF will discuss this issue with the industry. This may be a good issue for which the LATF will take the lead.

It was agreed that further discussion on this issue should take place at future LATF meetings.

6. INTEGRATED QUALITY INITIATIVE

A brief presentation was provided by the NRC regarding the new initiative aimed at improving the quality of Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation interfaces, services, and products (see Enclosure 3 for handouts). The current status was discussed.

The industry recommended looking at similar initiatives that have been undertaken at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations and within the nuclear industry. It was also recommended that this topic be discussed at the upcoming NEI Licensing Information Forum.

It was agreed to continue the discussion on this topic with a focus on clearly defining the problems that need to be addressed.

7. OTHER ISSUES

The industry representatives summarized a list of successful undertakings that have resulted from the LATF efforts. These successes included internal process changes documented in office instruction LIC-101, License Amendment Review Procedures" (previously Office Letter 803), the improvements in the request for additional information and TIA processes, the formulation and implementation of the CLIIP, and the ongoing efforts to standardize licensing requests.

J. Zwolinski

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The NRC members stated that NRC management plans to continue support for the LATF efforts.

It was discussed that the next LATF meeting would occur in late October or early November of 2001.

cc w/encls: See next page

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LICENSING ACTION TASK FORCE MEETING

JULY 18, 2001

LIST OF ATTENDEES

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Roy Zimmerman	NRC/RES
John Hannon	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Suzanne Black	NRC/NRR/DSSA
Bill Reckley	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Lawrence Burkhart	NRC/NRR/DLPM
William Beckner	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Jack Cushing	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Robert Dennig	NRC/NRR/DLPM
L. Raghavan	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Mike Schoppman	NEI
James Fisicaro	Duke Energy
Don Woodlan	TXU Electric
Harold Chernoff	CP&L/Progress Energy
Scott Bauer	Arizona Public Service Co.
Brian McIntyre	AEP
Pete Kokolakis	Entergy NNE
Dave Firth	FRA-AWP/B&W OG
Dana Millar	Entergy Ops, SW
Brooke Poole	Winston & Strawn
Deann Raleigh	US, Sciencetech
Nancy Chapman	SERCH/Bechtel