

March 15, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph Donoghue, Project Manager, Section 2 **/RA/**
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2002, WITH THE
BOILING WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP EXECUTIVES

On January 10, 2002, the NRC staff held a public meeting with the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) at the NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and to provide a forum for discussion of topics related to NRC and BWROG activities. Attachment 1 lists the meeting participants. The meeting slides are available in ADAMS under the accession number ML020150087.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Samuel Collins (Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation) discussed in general terms the status of Commission activities related to the potential terrorist threat to nuclear facilities. He also highlighted major activities of interest to the BWROG, including: power uprates, future plant licensing, and the upcoming Regulatory Information Conference. Dr. Brian Sheron (Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis) added that the NRC staff plans to hold a workshop on extended power uprates following the Regulatory Information Conference.

There were no outstanding action items from previous meetings.

BWROG representatives provided presentations in the following areas:

- Security and Severe Accident Guidelines
- Reactor Stability
- Risk Informed 10 CFR Part 50 - Option 2
- Risk Informed 10 CFR Part 50 - Option 3
- Risk Informed Technical Specifications (RITS) Initiatives
- Hydrogen/Oxygen Analyzers and Combustible Gas Control
- Post-Accident Sampling System Elimination
- Hamaoka Pipe Rupture

The NRC staff provided a presentation on:

- Revisions to the Fee Recovery Rule: 10 CFR Part 170
- Significant points raised during the discussions included:

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Security and Severe Accident Guidelines: The BWROG expressed support of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and NRC efforts relating to reevaluation of security measures. The BWROG stated that existing accident response guidelines are applicable to events regardless of the event initiator or likelihood of its occurrence. The BWROG is anticipating interim security measures to be instituted to counter potential terrorist or other security threats to plants. The industry is eager to reach a point of stability regarding the expectations in this area.

Reactor Stability: The BWROG detailed progress made to address the Part 21 notification issued in Spring 2001, concerning the generic curves that relate normalized critical power ratio to hot bundle oscillation magnitude (DIVOM curves). The BWROG discussed planned activities and the schedule to deliver a topical report detailing the proposed methodology to address the issue. The BWROG expects to submit a topical report in September 2002, and requested NRC approval in December 2002. The NRC staff expressed concern for the requested approval date, based on the complexity of the NRC staff review that will be required. The BWROG stated that the date is predicated on supporting Spring outages in 2003. The NRC staff said that it was uncertain whether the requested approval date could be met.

Risk Informed 10 CFR Part 50 - Option 2: The BWROG discussed current activities that are focused on the 50.69 rulemaking. Recent discussions with the NRC staff about the draft rule were summarized, highlighting outstanding issues related to special treatment of certain safety systems and components. The BWROG expressed satisfaction with industry involvement in the rulemaking and their intent to continue working closely with the NRC.

Risk Informed 10 CFR Part 50 - Option 3: The discussion first focused on separation of loss of offsite power (LOOP) and certain loss-of-coolant accidents (LOCAs). The BWROG and NRC discussed specific concerns related to the BWROG proposal to drop the requirement that a LOOP be postulated for large LOCAs, based upon a risk-informed approach. Potential benefits were discussed by the BWROG and some reservations expressed by the NRC staff about the reliability of historical risk information relative to grid stability given some recent events. The NRC staff also believed that it would be helpful if the benefits discussed by the BWROG could be expressed quantitatively. The BWROG expressed concerns about the NRC's progress to revise LOCA data frequencies. The NRC staff expects that the contractor would meet the planned delivery date in 2002, and that it would then need to evaluate the results before using them in the Option 3 effort.

The BWROG summarized their activities to track progress related to changing the decay heat standard used in LOCA analyses. NRC technical work is not scheduled for completion until mid-2002.

The BWROG discussed plans for a pilot plant to implement LOOP/LOCA separation. The NRC staff asked for more specific information about the plants and schedule. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Risk Informed Technical Specifications: The BWROG summarized the outcome of the December 2002 RITS meeting at NRC, and reviewed the status of RITS initiatives. The BWROG expressed satisfaction with the schedules and changes made resulting from that meeting. During the discussion on Initiative 4a, allowed outage time (AOT) extensions, the

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BWROG stated their plan to submit a topical report on containment isolation valve AOT extensions for BWRs in the near term.

Hydrogen/Oxygen Analyzers and Combustible Gas Control: The BWROG summarized recent actions, including a conference call conducted with the NRC staff on January 7, 2002. The related 10 CFR 50.44 rulemaking was discussed, and the need to resolve oxygen monitor technical specification requirements. The NRC staff stated that the NEI comments on the rulemaking were received after the conference call and are being considered. The BWROG stated that in light of the NRC schedule for rulemaking, the BWROG would probably withdraw the topical report, and that the NRC should put the review on hold.

The NRC staff stated that it would consider exemptions to current requirements as interim measures until the rule is issued.

Pipe Break Inside Containment (Generic Safety Issue (GSI) 156.6.1): The BWROG briefly summarized their work related to their recommendation to drop GSI 156.6.1 based on results documented in a recently-submitted topical report. The BWROG considers their effort complete.

Hamaoka Pipe Rupture: A representative of GE Nuclear Energy (GENE) summarized the pipe rupture at a Japanese BWR and GENE's actions in response to the event, including communications with industry and the NRC. GENE plans to issue a follow-up Services Information Letter once the root cause of the failure is identified.

Fee Waivers: The NRC staff offered a short presentation concerning changes to the criteria for exemptions to the fee rule (10 CFR 170).

Post-Accident Sampling System Elimination: The NRC staff summarized activities and plans to communicate the NRC position relative to the applicability of Part 20 requirements related to elimination of regulatory requirements on post-accident sampling. In the near-term, the NRC staff intends to issue a letter to the BWROG with the NRC position.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Kenney thanked the NRC staff for supporting the meeting and for the open exchange of information. Mr. Collins and Dr. Sheron stated that these meetings are a useful means for the NRC staff to receive feedback from the owners groups and to highlight important issues. A tentative date of April 4, 2002, was set for the next meeting.

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Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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MEETING SUMMARY WITH BOILING WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP ON
JANUARY 10, 2002

Dated: March 15, 2002

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WReckley

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EPoteat

ATTENDANCE LIST FOR MEETING BETWEEN

NRC AND THE BWROG

January 10, 2002

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B. Bohlke (Exelon)
M. May (Exelon)
T. Rieck (Exelon)
C. Terry (Constellation/Nine Mile Point)
B. Eaton (Entergy/Grand Gulf)
J. Gray (Entergy)
J. Kenney (PPL)

OTHER

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M. Schoppman (NEI)
A. Wyche (Bechtel)

GE NUCLEAR ENERGY

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T. Hurst
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B. Sheron
S. Black
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C. Carpenter
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S. Dembek
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H. Vandermolen
D. Weiss
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Attachment