

March 27, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Cynthia Carpenter, Program Director
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Peter C. Wen, Project Manager */RA/*
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 15, 2002, MEETING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY
INSTITUTE ON GRID RELIABILITY ISSUES

On March 15, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) at the NRC's office in Rockville, Maryland to discuss nuclear power plant electric grid reliability issues. The meeting attendees are listed in Attachment 1.

Since the low switchyard voltage event that occurred at Callaway on August 11, 1999, the staff has engaged with the nuclear industry through NEI to discuss and address the grid reliability related issues. The staff held public meetings (May 18, October 27, 2000 and July, 24, 2001) with industry, issued Regulatory Issue Summary 2000-24, "Concerns about Offsite Power Voltage Inadequacies and Grid Reliability Challenges Due to Industry Deregulation," and participated in an industry workshop (April 2-4, 2001) on the grid reliability issues. This meeting was a continuation of the previous activities to obtain an update on industry actions regarding grid reliability issues and to continue discussion of the related issues.

The INPO presented the progress on its evaluations against Significant Operating Experience Report (SOER) 99-1, "Loss of Grid." Those recommendations have become the centerpiece of the industry actions on this subject. Of the evaluations which began in June 2000, 55 stations have been evaluated thus far. INPO plans to complete the evaluations for all plants by June 2002. INPO indicated that nuclear plants are actively addressing the SOER recommendations and a few weaknesses identified during its evaluations are being strengthened by the utilities. INPO's presentation material is provided as Attachment 2.

The EPRI presented the results of its year 2001 biennial report on losses of offsite power. Losses of offsite power at U.S. nuclear power plants have ranged from zero to five events per calendar year over the years 1994 through year 2001. There was only one loss of offsite power event in the year 2000 and one event in the year 2001. EPRI indicated that in addition to implementing INPO SOER 99-01 recommendations, some utilities have taken steps to enhance the grid reliability by signing transmission control agreements and/or by upgrading equipment and changing procedures to increase operating flexibility. EPRI's presentation material is provided as Attachment 3.

NRC/RES briefly described a study currently being undertaken. The study examines electric grid related events that affected nuclear power plant operation and nuclear power plant events that affected electric grid operation. RES indicated that the report is due out next September and would be issued for public comment prior to that.

NRC/NRR discussed its three proposals, identified in RIS 2000-24 on the grid reliability subject, for NEI considerations. NEI stated it would address these three topics in the upcoming July time frame, after INPO completes the review of SOER 99-01 at all plants. NEI indicated that it originally had some concerns about generator testing requirements being proposed as part of North American Electric Reliability Council standards and suggested that NRC may want to be involved in the setting of those standards. NEI will include its recommendation in the July letter to the NRC.

Having completed discussion of the agenda items, the group adjourned.

Project No. 689

Attachments: As stated

cc w/atts: See list

**Attendees for March 15, 2002
Meeting on Grid Reliability Issues**

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Jose Calvo	NRR/DE/EEIB
Cornelius Holden	NRR/DE/EEIB
James Lazevnick	NRR/DE/EEIB
Peter Kang	NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Shoji Takeyama	NRR/DRIP/RLEP
Peter Wen	NRR/DRIP/RPRP
William Raughley	RES/DSARE/REAHFB
Alan Kuritzky	RES/DRAA/PRAB
Alex Marion	NEI
John Butler	NEI
John Maciejewski	INPO
William Hastie	INPO
Frank Rahn	EPRI
Paul Schaffer	Sargent & Lundy
Altheia Wyche	Serch/Bechtel
Deann Raleigh	LIS, Scientech
Roger Huston	Licensing Support Services
Jenny Weil	McGraw-Hill
Saadia Aleem	Morgan, Lewis & Bockins

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Nuclear Energy Institute

Project No. 689

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