

October 26, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Daniel S. Collins, Acting Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
/RA/
FROM: Bhalchandra K. Vaidya, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2005, SENIOR MANAGEMENT
MEETING WITH THE BOILING WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP
(BWROG) (TAC NO. MC8328)

On September 15, 2005, senior management from the BWROG met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to discuss issues of mutual interest. Copies of the slide presentations from NRC and BWROG are available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML052590019 and ML052590020. The list of meeting attendees is attached. The previous BWROG/NRC senior management meeting was held on December 8, 2004.

Mr. James Dyer, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Mr. Lewis Sumner, Executive Chairman, BWROG started the meeting with opening remarks. Mr. Dyer highlighted agency-level priorities and plans for the near future, including some of the new challenges the NRC expects to face as a result of early site permits, new reactor design reviews, and combined operating licenses (COLs) for new reactors. He stated that these expected challenges prompted NRR to implement a reorganization and hire additional staff in order to prepare for this expected new work. He also emphasized the need for quality submittals and frequent communication between NRR and BWROG with respect to any changes in the priorities and plans, and requirements for any additional information. In his opening remarks, Mr. Sumner, expressed appreciation for the information regarding the NRR reorganization. He stated that the BWROG is concerned about retaining continuity in NRC focus on BWROG submittals. He requested that a point-of-contact list for the new organization be provided to BWROG as soon as possible.

The opening remarks were followed by a presentation on NRC's budget process by Mr. John Tappert, Chief, Resource Management Branch, in the Program Management, Policy Development and Planning Staff. He provided information on the planning, budgeting, and execution stages of the budget, including the timeline aspects. He emphasized the importance of early and accurate input for the budget development. He stated that planning for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 budget (beginning October 1, 2007) will begin in October 2005. BWROG asked if the NRC staff would be able to notify BWROG in March-April 2006, which part of the BWROG input was incorporated in the budget. Mr. Tappert stated that it is not possible to know what is included in the budget proposal submitted to the Congress (President's Budget or Green Book) until OMB approval in Feb-March 2007.

Mr. Christopher Grimes, Deputy Director, Division of Engineering, and Mr. James Lyons, Director, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, presented an overview of their divisions' priorities, plans, resource availability, and resource constraints (e.g., emerging technical challenges) that NRC Division Directors foresee will have high priority in the near future, thereby affecting BWROG submittals and issue resolutions. Their presentation showed how the resources are spent on various tasks in a typical year. They stated that reactor safety topics are given precedence, followed by licensing actions and activities.

The meeting continued with a presentation by Mr. Sumner, discussing the BWROG's priorities and plans, mission statement, various BWROG initiatives, and budget allocations. NRR asked BWROG if they coordinate their submittals with other industry groups such as the Westinghouse Owners' Group, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Electrical Power Research Institute, etc. BWROG responded that coordination is explored only on those submittals where there is common interest. Other submittals are prioritized independently. During a brief discussion of other BWROG activities, Dr. Brian Sheron, Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis, NRR, suggested that BWROG might build public confidence if it were to evaluate "Lessons Learned in Relationship with the Public" and share them with their membership.

Mr. Joe Conen, Chairman, and Mr. Randy Bunt, Vice Chairman, BWROG, then provided updates of BWROG's current efforts regarding separation of loss of offsite power (LOOP)/loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), extended power uprates (EPUs), Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.97, and Recirculation Pump Shaft Vibrations.

On the subject of Separating LOOP/LOCA, the BWROG noted that NRC review of the BWROG topical report has been deferred while NRC resources concentrate on the rulemaking effort on large break (LB) LOCA. BWROG has adjusted its resources based on this deferral. This is a high priority issue for BWROG and they are looking forward to the successful completion of the LOOP/LOCA Separation initiative.

BWROG's presentation on EPU covered an overview of results of industry activities, including updating NEDC-33159 to reflect steam dryer modeling; SIL-644, Revision 1; and loose parts issues since the last BWROG-NRC meeting in December 2004. BWROG also stated that they intend to include industry EPU experience for 2004-2005 in the NEDC-33159 update.

BWROG stated that they initiated an activity to review RG 1.97 requirements for post-accident instrumentation to identify potential changes to these requirements for boiling water reactors (BWRs) in their multi-phase approach, and a plan to submit a guidance document for NRC approval as a topical report. The NRC stated that draft guide (DG)-1128 "Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Plants" (Proposed RG 1.97, Revision 4) (ADAMS Accession No. ML052150210) was issued for public comment on August 17, 2005. Public comments were due by October 14, 2005. BWROG should use this process to minimize the need for a topical report on the subject.

BWROG then briefed NRR on plans and status of BWROG Reactor Recirculation Pump (RRP) Shaft activities, which include issuance of the guidance document: (1) to address the NRC Information Notice 2005-08 dated April 5, 2005, (2) to identify RRP design features for the

BWR fleet, (3) to make recommendations for monitoring (ultrasonic testing and vibrations), (4) for conduct of safety assessments on potential shaft failure, and (5) provide a collection of information from pump suppliers. The document is expected to be available to NRC in summer 2006.

Members of the public were present at the meeting. They had no comments.

At the meeting's conclusion, the NRC staff thanked the BWROG for bringing forth its concerns and issues. Action items resulting from this meeting are as follows:

- The staff will communicate new organizational points of contact to BWROG.
- The BWROG will look into the suggestions and comments made by NRR on RG 1.97, "Lessons Learned" approaches, and better focus on Standard Technical Specifications conversions and Standard Review Plans.
- NRR and BWROG to make conscious efforts to have continuous communication on changes to priorities and planned/agreed upon dates.

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Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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RidsNrrPMBVaidya

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MTG NOTICE: ML052000284

SLIDES: ML052590019, ML052590020

PKG. : ML052870521

ADAMS Accession: ML052870501

NRR-001

OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/LA	PDIV-2/SC
NAME	BVaidya	DJohnson	DCollins
DATE	10/20/05	10/20/05	10/26/05

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

ATTENDEES

MEETING WITH THE BOILING WATER REACTORS OWNERS GROUP (BWROG)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

BWROG

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T. Abney
J. Conen
R. Bunt

NRC

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B. Sheron
B. Vaidya
H. Berkow
T. Scarbrough
J. Lyons
C. Grimes
L. Marsh
J. Tappert
S. Laur
D. Collins
G. Imbro
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