

SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH INDUSTRY GROUPS AND AGREEMENT STATES TO DISCUSS DECOMMISSIONING LESSONS LEARNED

11/30/2005

Participants:

NRC: Rafael L. Rodriguez, Andrew Persinko, Daniel Gillen, Claudia Craig, Amir Kouhestani, Dominick Orlando

Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum: David G. Culberson, John Conant

Nuclear Energy Institute: Ralph Andersen, Clifton Farrell

Electric Power Research Institute: Sean Bushart, Mike Naughton

Organization of Agreement States: Thomas A. Conley

Others: John T. Greeves, JTG Consulting

The meeting started with some remarks by Mr. Gillen explaining the purpose of the meeting and why the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is pursuing a collective effort with industry groups and Agreement States on decommissioning lessons learned. Mr. Culberson stated that the idea of lessons learned has been discussed in the Fuel Cycle Facilities Forum (FCFF) for years, and stressed that it is very important to immortalize these lessons. Mr. Conley stated that this collective effort is beneficial to the Agreement States community. Mr. Naughton discussed some previous efforts from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on lessons learned. EPRI has captured data from several decommissioning plans (DPs) on different decommissioning areas, and has developed related guidance and assessment summaries. Mr. Naughton also stated that in recent years, the international community has come to EPRI for guidance resulting from these lessons learned.

Mr. Rodriguez discussed the purpose of the proposed collective effort among NRC, FCFF, EPRI, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), and the Organization of Agreement States to capture and preserve decommissioning lessons learned, and mentioned some previous efforts by NRC to communicate the idea of lessons learned. Four preliminary approaches were then presented, along with their perceived advantages and disadvantages: (a) a centralized database system, (b) individual interconnected web links from each organization displaying their respective lessons learned, (c) an IT platform provided and supported by NRC with lessons learned from all participating organizations, and (d) hard copy publications of the lessons learned by all organizations. Mr. Persinko indicated NRC's current preference for option B. The attendees then commented on these preliminary approaches. Mr. Orlando suggested another option, which would be a combination of the individual web links and publication of the lessons learned on a compact disc (CD). This CD would be published on a specific frequency

(i.e., annually, etc.). Mr. Culberson emphasized that FCFF does not have a budget to develop its own web page or portal and suggested consideration of other alternatives, and what is necessary at the beginning of the process rather than what is going to be the end result. Mr. Culberson recommended a phased approach, with the initial step being a bibliography of all the decommissioning lessons that have been learned over the last couple of years. Attendees were receptive to this idea, and agreed that this should be the first step pursued by all organizations. Some of the challenges for capturing and preserving lessons learned in the long term include maintaining the information current, and managing an enormous amount of information. In the long term (i.e., 10-15 years down the road), some of the lessons learned may not be useful to the decommissioning community. Mr. Andersen suggested holding periodic workshops to discuss decommissioning lessons learned. The proceedings from these workshops would help preserve the information. He expressed concerns about the use of sophisticated mechanisms to store the information. In the long term, these mechanisms would store too much information, and a user could have difficulties retrieving specific lessons learned.

The participants then decided on some near-term products resulting from this meeting. One of the products is a consolidated bibliography of all publicly available references that discuss decommissioning lessons learned over the last 6 years. Each organization will be responsible for searching the information within their respective technical/regulatory areas, and NRC will consolidate the different inputs into a master list. This master list will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Orlando suggested contacting other technical organizations (i.e., Health Physics Society, American Nuclear Society) to obtain information on references that discuss lessons learned. Mr. Culberson suggested disseminating the idea of the collective effort on lessons learned among all the organizations participating at the Waste Management Conference in February 2006 (WM06). Mr. Gillen, Mr. Bushart, and Mr. Culberson are members of the panel on lessons learned scheduled for WM06.

Finally, all the participants agreed to have another meeting in mid-January to discuss the preliminary results of the bibliography, the next steps for the group, and presenting the lessons-learned work at WM06. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2006.

Summary of Actions:

- Each organization will search for bibliographical information within their respective areas regarding lessons learned and will provide the information to Mr. Rodriguez who will consolidate it for the next meeting.
- Each organization will review the long-term options so that the group can decide on an option at the next meeting in January.
- Consider how to present this information at WM06.