

February 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Eileen McKenna, Chief
Financial, Policy and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Richard Dudley, Senior Project Manager */RA/*
Financial, Policy and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS PROPOSED RULE
ON RISK-INFORMED CHANGES TO LOSS-OF-COOLANT ACCIDENT
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS (10 CFR 50.46a)

On February 16, 2006, the staff conducted a Category 3 public meeting on the proposed rule to add a risk-informed alternative to §50.46 (LOCA redefinition). Approximately 40 people attended, primarily industry and staff. The purpose of the workshop was to ensure stakeholders had a clear understanding of the NRC's intent and interpretation of the proposed rule so that subsequent written comments would not result from misunderstandings.

The staff provided an overview of the rule, described the important features and encouraged stakeholders to formally submit constructive comments, such as alternative approaches that would achieve the underlying purposes of the rule. Most of the questions concerned the scope and extent of the risk-informed integrated safety performance (RISP) assessment process, operational constraints and the mitigation capability for breaks larger than the transition break size. In addition, there were concerns that all future licensing action requests would become risk-informed amendments causing an increase in licensee and staff resources to manage license amendments, and that the threshold for a "minimal increase" in risk would be so low that a large number of licensing actions that might otherwise be made under §50.59 would have to be submitted for staff review and approval. There were several other comments and questions about implementation details, many of which will need to be addressed during guidance development.

The comment period for the proposed §50.46a closes on March 8, 2006. A list of meeting attendees is provided in Enclosure 1. Presentation slides used by the NRC staff are provided in Enclosure 2.

Enclosures:

- (1) List of Attendees
- (2) NRC presentation slides

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NAME	RDudley	EMcKenna
DATE	02/28/2006	02/28/2006

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List of Attendees

Name	Organization	Email Address
Bob Jaquith	Westinghouse	robert.e.jaquith@us.westinghouse.com
Tony Browning	FPL Energy	tony_browning@fpl.com
Hugo C. da Silva	TXU Power	hdasilv1@txu.com
Dave Bajumpaa	Dominion	david_a_bajumpaa@dom.com
John Butler	NEI	jcb@nei.org
Fred Emerson	GE	frederick.emerson@ge.com
Stanley Levinson	Framatome ANP	stanley.levinson@framatome-anp.com
Jarad Wermiel	NRC/NRR/DSS	jsw1@nrc.gov
Gregg Swindlehurst	Duke Power	gbswindl@duke-energy.com
Wes Sparkman	SNC	wasparkm@southernco.com
Tom Laubham	Westinghouse	laubhatj@westinghouse.com
Jim Andrachek	Westinghouse	andracjd@westinghouse.com
Wayne Harrison	STPNOC	awharrison@stpegs.com
Nancy Chapman	SERCH/Bechtel	ngchapman@bechtel.com
Gary Hammer	NRC/NRR	cgh@nrc.gov
Djordje Kojnorwv	SNSA (Slovenia)	
Hossein Hamzehee	NRC/NRR	hgh@nrc.gov
Steven A. Lauer	NRC/NRR	sal@nrc.gov
Andrew Howe	NRC/NRR	ajh1@nrc.gov
Bill Bateman	NRC/NRR/DCI	whb@nrc.gov
Bert Dunn	Framatome WOG	bert.dunn@framatome-anp.com
Tony Pietrangelo	NEI	arp@nrc.gov
Ed Thom	NRR/ADES	edt1@nrc.gov

Enclosure 1

Name	Organization	Email Address
Mike Snodderly	NRC/ACRS	mrs1@nrc.gov
John Fair	NRR/NRR/DE	jrf@nrc.gov
David Fischer	NRC/NRR/CPTB	dcf@nrc.gov
Glenn Kelly	NRC/NRR	gbk@nrc.gov
Kim Gruss	NRC/NRR	kag1@nrc.gov
Biff Bradley	NEI	rcb@nei.org
Deann Raleigh	LIS, Scientech	draleigh@scientech.co
John Tsao	NRC/NRR	jct@nrc.gov
Adel El-Bassioni	NRC/NRR	aae@nrc.gov
Mark Rubin	NRC/NRR	mpr@nrc.gov
Norm Lauben	NRC/RES	gnl1@nrc.gov
Sunil Weerakkody	NRC/NRR	sdw1@nrc.gov
John Lane	NRC/RES/DRAA	jcl1@nrc.gov
Charles Ader	NRC/RES/DRAA	cea@nrc.gov
George Mencinsky	NRC/NRR/DPR	gjm@nrc.gov
Pete Yorsky	NRC/NRR	pxy1@nrc.gov
Rich Barrett	NRC/RES	rjb3@nrc.gov
Jim Lyons	NRC/NRR/DRA	jel@nrc.gov
Veronica Klein	NRC/NRR/DSS/SNPB	vmk1@nrc.gov
Brian Sheron	NRC/NRR/ADES	bws@nrc.gov
Gary Holahan	NRC/NRR/ADRA	gmh@nrc.gov
Eileen McKenna	NRC/NRR/DPR	emm@nrc.gov
Tim Collins	NRC/NRR	tec@nrc.gov
Steve Dinsmore	NRC/NRR/DRA	scd1@nrc.gov
Nilesh Chokshi	NRC/RES	ncc1@nrc.gov
Ralph Landry	NRC/NRR	rrl@nrc.gov
Chris Grimes	NRC/NRR/DPR	cig@nrc.gov
Dan Horner	Platts	daniel_horner@platts.com