

March 23, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert A. Gramm, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager /RA/
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2006, WITH THE
WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP'S TRAINING WORKING GROUP
REGARDING REVISION TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY CATALOGS

On January 17, 2006, at the request of the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of the WOG's Training Working Group (TWG) to discuss a revision to the NRC Knowledge and Ability (K/A) Catalogs.

The meeting began with a presentation from the WOG on the background and overview of the K/A Catalog Revision Program, and discussions of the future revision to the Generic Section of the K/A Catalogs (NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123). The WOG also discussed the impact of the pressurized water reactor (PWR) Catalog changes to the boiling water reactor (BWR) Catalog; role of the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) Industry Focus Group; impact of K/A Catalog revision to the existing examination test bank items, including the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) National Examination Bank; K/A Catalog revision with respect to new plant designs; benefits of issuance of an errata vs. revision to the K/A Catalogs; and a request that a revision to NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123 be issued.

After the WOG presentation, the NRC staff actively participated in an open discussion regarding revision to the K/A Catalogs, and informed the WOG that the NRC staff would consider the WOG's request to revise NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123, and document its decision in this meeting summary. The discussion of the NRC staff regarding revision to the K/A Catalogs and its decision is provided as Enclosure 2 of this meeting summary.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC staff expressed its appreciation to the WOG for the meeting. An attendance list is provided as Enclosure 1. There were no members of the public present at the meeting. The WOG slides used during the meeting are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under accession number ML060180156.

Project No. 694

Enclosures: 1. Meeting Attendees
2. NRC Staff Discussion

cc w/encls: See next page

March 23, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert A. Gramm, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager /RA/
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2006, WITH THE
WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP'S TRAINING WORKING GROUP
REGARDING REVISION TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY CATALOGS

On January 17, 2006, at the request of the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of the WOG's Training Working Group (TWG) to discuss a revision to the NRC Knowledge and Ability (K/A) Catalogs.

The meeting began with a presentation from the WOG on the background and overview of the K/A Catalog Revision Program, and discussions of the future revision to the Generic Section of the K/A Catalogs (NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123). The WOG also discussed the impact of the pressurized water reactor (PWR) Catalog changes to the boiling water reactor (BWR) Catalog; role of the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) Industry Focus Group; impact of K/A Catalog revision to the existing examination test bank items, including the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) National Examination Bank; K/A Catalog revision with respect to new plant designs; benefits of issuance of an errata vs. revision to the K/A Catalogs; and a request that a revision to NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123 be issued.

After the WOG presentation, the NRC staff actively participated in an open discussion regarding revision to the K/A Catalogs, and informed the WOG that the NRC staff would consider the WOG's request to revise NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123, and document its decision in this meeting summary. The discussion of the NRC staff regarding revision to the K/A Catalogs and its decision is provided as Enclosure 2 of this meeting summary.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC staff expressed its appreciation to the WOG for the meeting. An attendance list is provided as Enclosure 1. There were no members of the public present at the meeting. The WOG slides used during the meeting are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under accession number ML060180156.

Project No. 694

Enclosures: 1. Meeting Attendees
2. NRC Staff Discussion

cc w/encls: See next page

MEETING NOTICE: ML053570375
ADAMS Accession No.: ML060810548

PKG.: ML060810571
NRC-001

OFFICE	PSPB/PM	PSPB/LA	IOLB/PM	IOLB/BC	PSPB/BC
NAME	GShukla	DBaxley	GUsova	DTrimble	RGramm
DATE	3/22/06	3/22/06	3/22/06	3/23/06	3/23/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Westinghouse Owners Group

Project No. 694

cc:

Mr. James A. Gresham, Manager
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Gordon Bischoff, Manager
Owners Group Program Management Office
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Joseph E. Conen
BWR Owners Group
DTE Energy - Fermi 2
200 TAC
6400 N. Dixie Highway
Newport, MI 48166

12/21/05

DISTRIBUTION FOR SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2006, WITH THE
WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP'S TRAINING WORKING GROUP REGARDING
REVISION TO NRC KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY CATALOGS

Date: March 23, 2006

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC

PSPB R/F

RidsNrrAdra

RidsNrrDpr

RidsNrrDprPspb

RidsNrrLADBaxley

RidsOgcMailCenter

RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter

RidsOpaMail

RidsNrrPMS hukla

DTrimble

GUs ova

JMunro

FGuenther

MEETING ATTENDEES

**MEETING WITH THE WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP'S
TRAINING WORKING GROUP REGARDING REVISION TO
NRC KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY (K/A) CATALOGS**

JANUARY 17, 2006

Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG)

John Wood	APS
Charles Sawyer	Duke
Check Hess	PP&L
Rich Brooks	PP&L
Lynn Moyer	PS&HA
Christine DiMuzio	WOG
Gordon Bischoff	WOG
John Hilton	Westinghouse
Paul Hippely	Westinghouse

Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG)

Ken McCall	BWROG
------------	-------

NRC

Girija Shukla	WOG Project Manager/SPSB/DPR/NRR
Dave Trimble	Branch Chief/IOLB/DIRS/NRR
George Usova	Technical Reviewer/IOLB/DIRS/NRR
John Munro	Technical Reviewer/IOLB/DIRS/NRR
Fred Guenther	Technical Reviewer/IOLB/DIRS/NRR

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION STAFF'S DISCUSSION
ON THE REVISION TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) KNOWLEDGE AND
ABILITY CATALOGS (NUREG-1122 and NUREG-1123)

BACKGROUND:

The Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) had requested the January 17, 2006, public meeting after learning that the NRC staff had tentatively decided to perform a limited errata change to address the WOG's recommended program revisions regarding the Knowledge and Ability (K/A) Catalogs project. The NRC staff had announced this decision at its November 30, 2005, meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) Industry Focus Group on Operator Licensing Issues.

The NRC staff's decision to implement the WOG recommendations related to 37 clarifications to K/A statements in the pressurized water reactor Catalog, via an errata change, was opted to address the WOG's original concern - lack of clarity in K/A statements that caused rework of subsequent test items. The NRC staff's decision to defer implementation of other WOG recommendations to the Catalog was based upon their (1) relatively insignificant value to the validity of the catalogs and/or toward developing examination sample plans, (2) potentially disruptive effect on the development of future examination sample plans, i.e., changing existing K/A statements and numerical references in existing test bank data bases and, (3) the absence of any significant number of new K/A statements determined through the WOG's own study.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

The purpose of the January 17, 2006, meeting with the WOG was to discuss and clarify any concerns over its K/A Catalog Revision Program. Consequently, members of the WOG presented a brief slide presentation which addressed the above expressed concerns. Namely, the WOG provided an explanation on how the changing numbers of K/A statements would not materially affect test bank usage. In this regard, the WOG had contacted the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), which "houses" all the NRC test bank items, to resolve a strategy to integrate the existing test bank system with the revised system; in response, INPO plans to archive all past test bank items under the old numeric system and enter all subsequent items under the revised numeric system. Discussion followed that such a plan was not truly an integration, but rather, a two-bank system. Such a system would require communication to the end users that such users would need to access both banks to achieve maximum benefit from the system. Some discussion then followed regarding the impact of changing the numeric system at the individual utility level. In this regard, the WOG assured the NRC staff that individual utilities had agreed to absorb the costs associated with remapping old K/A numbers with revised numbers and that such costs would be minimal.

Regarding the NRC staff's concern over the lack of new K/A statements, the WOG explained that many new topic suggestions were, in fact, received and had been integrated into existing K/A statements. The WOG's rationale was that this was a more efficient approach. The NRC staff acknowledged this but warned that the disposition of some of the suggestions, as integrated into revisions, was not always clear or congruent with the recommendation.

As part of its argument to support operational validity of the catalog, the WOG further stated that because K/A importance values had risen overall, there was the possibility that 69 new K/As (heretofore untested) would be added as testable topics to the catalog. The NRC staff agreed that this could be a possibility, pending the validation survey results.

The WOG further reiterated that there would be rework cost savings associated with K/A clarifications and subsequent test item development. The NRC staff reiterated its doubt over the WOG's estimated cost savings because the WOG's assumptions over test item rework were never established to be associated with K/A and test item mismatches.

The WOG recommended that the NRC proceed with the full recommendations and implementation of its study vice the NRC staff's recommendation for the errata change only. To this end, the WOG cited the benefits of its recommendation in its handout.

The NRC staff agreed to reconsider its earlier decision to make only an errata change, in light of the WOG's clarifications and explanations. However, the NRC staff stated that it would defer a final decision until the NRC staff could reexamine all elements of the project.

POST-MEETING EVENTS:

Following the January 17, 2006, meeting, the NRC staff held a teleconference with the WOG on February 16, 2006, to discuss and resolve final details concerning the WOG's project.

In the teleconference, the NRC staff agreed that the following changes would be made to the WOG's survey instrument in their validation phase of re-rating importance values:

1. Added three new K/A statements on grid communications, grid maintenance, and grid operability.
2. Added two new K/A statements to Section 2 of the catalogs: site corrosion processes and reactor water chemistry controls.
3. Added additional new K/As on Degraded Voltage (for importance rating purposes only) to be subsequently added to Section 4 of the K/A Catalogs.
4. Resolution and clarification to WOG's disposition of survey participant comments, which resulted in editorial revisions to be made to select K/A statements and the addition of four new K/A statements.

Subsequent to the teleconference, the WOG has agreed to the above changes.

CONCLUSION:

Based upon the resolution of details at this teleconference, the NRC staff approved the WOG project to date and recommended that the WOG continue its project to validate the necessary K/A Catalogs revisions. The NRC staff will proceed with a revision of the K/A Catalogs, rather than an errata.