

October 11, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Junge, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Richard Pelton **/RA/**
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Construction and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2007, CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC
MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) TO
DISCUSS NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING INITIATIVES

On September 13, 2007, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with NEI, industry representatives, and vendors to discuss the operator licensing white papers (ADAMS Accession No. ML072420450) submitted by NEI on August 21, 2007. Enclosure 1 lists the attendees at the meeting and individuals who participated via teleconference; no members of the general public were present. Enclosure 2 is the meeting agenda. Information presented by NEI and industry at the meeting is available in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession number ML072630415.

The new reactor operator licensing white papers discuss cold licensing and training of the estimated 450 licensed operators that will be necessary to operate the new nuclear power plants. Cold licensing is a process used prior to fuel load that provides a method for operations personnel to acquire the knowledge and experience required for licensed operator duties following construction.

Meeting participants agreed that existing regulatory guidance addresses the training and qualification needs of licensed operator candidates for operating reactors but does not address the situation in which the plant is not operational (i.e., under construction). In addition, regulatory guidance related to the cold licensing of operators needs to be developed so that clear, appropriate, and achievable training commitments can be documented in each facility's combined operating license (COL) application.

It was also agreed that the cold licensing process should follow current operator licensing guidance for operating plants with additional guidance in the areas of experience requirements, training program implementation, job performance measurements (JPM) and on-shift on the job training (OJT) during construction, simulator training using a limited scope simulator, continuing training for license candidates, and licensing examinations.

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Issues raised by the NRC included:

- documentation of experience, for each individual, used to meet the “cold license” eligibility guidance,
- documentation of experience obtained while an individual is in a training status,
- time spent obtaining experience prior to licensing must be consistently calculated,
- activities counted toward meeting the experience guidelines must be meaningful,
- and, operating crew experience levels.

The NRC asked if responses to Regulatory Issue Summaries (RIS) 07-17, “Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations,” included losses and gains resulting from licensing of new reactor operators. The industry representatives present stated that it was not known if the responses to RIS 07-17 included the effects of licensing new reactor operators. The information collected helps the NRC more effectively budget, allocate, and manage its resources. Options to determine the effects of licensing new reactor operators were discussed and included issuing a supplement to RIS 07-17, issuing a new RIS to determine the number of new applicants, or have NEI contact the utilities. NEI agreed to contact licensees regarding the effects of new reactor operator licensing. The purpose of the contact is to determine if the information provided in the responses to RIS 07-17 from operating reactors included the new licensed operators needed to operate the new reactors, the effects of the new operators on operating reactors, whether the licensee or the NRC will prepare the operator licensing examination, and to make adjustments to the response as necessary. NEI recently reported that a November 5, 2007, response has been requested.

In closing, NEI agreed to provide additional information pertaining to new plant experience requirements, simulator training for new plants, and cold licensing of operators for the operator licensing white papers. NEI also stated that, based on acceptance of the modified white papers, an operator licensing supplement to NEI 06-13, “Template for an Industry Training Program,” would be prepared for NRC review. NRC agreed to review the industry submittals. NRC and NEI agreed to work together to develop a New Reactor Operator Licensing action plan. No final positions were taken during the meeting. Additional public meetings may be held after NRC has reviewed the submittals being prepared by NEI.

Enclosure 1: List of Attendees

Enclosure 2: Meeting Agenda

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Distribution:
See next page

ADAMS Package Accession #: ML072400062
Meeting Summary Accession #: ML072770067
Meeting Notice Accession #: ML072390049
Meeting Handout Accession #: ML072630415

OFFICE	NRO/DCIP/COLP	NRO/DCIP/COLP:BC
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DATE	10/11/07	10/11/07

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Memo to Michael Junge from Richard Pelton dated _____

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2007, CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING WITH
THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE TO DISCUSS NEW REACTOR
OPERATOR LICENSING INITIATIVES

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Public Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
Discussion of New Reactor Operator Licensing Initiatives
September 13, 2007
Meeting Attendees

Name	Organization
Glenn Tracy	NRC
Mike Junge	NRC
Nancy Salgado	NRC
Rick Pelton	NRC
Fred Guenther	NRC
Mark Lintz	NRC
Susan Uttal	NRC
Brett Klukan	NRC
Brian Fuller (per telcom)	NRC
Frank Ehrhardt (per telcom)	NRC
Kathleen O'Donohue (per telcom)	NRC
Timothy Dennis	ANS Standards Committee
Andy Barbee	Dominion
Charles Sawyer	Duke Energy
Gregory Sparks	ETR
Julia Longfellow	General Electric
Mike Llewellyn	INPO
John Brabec	Luminant Power
Jack Roe	NEI
Chris Earls	NEI
Hamer Carter	Progress Energy
Steven Furstenberg	SCANA
Mike Simpson	SCANA

Name	Organization
Ted Amundson	Southern Nuclear
Tom Ryan	TVA
Ray Schiele	UNISTAR
Paul Hippely	Westinghouse
Deann Raleigh	Sciencetech

**PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE
ON NEW REACTOR OPERATOR LICENSING**

AGENDA		
TOPIC	WHO	TIME
Meeting Introductions: Opening comments	Junge	15
Experience Requirements for License Candidates Understanding of level of experience required	NEI	90
Training Program Accreditation Understanding of Accreditation timing and expectations	NRC	30
JPM's and OJT During Construction Phase Understanding of the use of JPM's and OJT during the construction phase	NRC	20
Simulator Training using Part Task/Limited Scope Simulator Understanding of the use of Limited Scope and Plant-Referenced Simulators	NRC	20
Continuing Training Understanding of the continuing training plans	NRC	15
Scheduling of NRC License Examinations Understanding of licensed operator examination plans	NRC	15
Knowledge and Ability Catalog Revision Agree on method to develop K&A catalogs	NEI	20
Review of agenda and action items	NRC	30
Next Steps	Junge	10

Nuclear Energy Institute

cc:

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