

June 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Rani L. Franovich, Chief  
Performance Assessment Branch  
Division of Inspection and Regional Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Ronald K. Frahm, Jr., Senior Reactor Operations Engineer **/RA/**  
Performance Assessment Branch  
Division of Inspection and Regional Support  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON MAY 30, 2012, TO  
DISCUSS POTENTIAL ENHANCEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC  
RADIATION SAFETY CORNERSTONE OF THE REACTOR  
OVERSIGHT PROCESS

On May 30, 2012, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff hosted a Category 2 public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and other interested stakeholders at the NRC's One White Flint North building in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting, as noted in the meeting notice dated May 10, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12125A072), was to discuss potential enhancements to the Public Radiation Safety (PRS) cornerstone of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). The meeting attendance list is included as the Enclosure.

The staff distributed and presented the slide package (ADAMS Accession No. ML12145A799) to provide some background and guide the discussions. The staff briefly presented the objectives of the meeting, which were to: (1) discuss the background related to potential enhancements to the PRS cornerstone of the ROP; (2) discuss the ROP framework and PRS cornerstone objectives, performance indicators, and inspection procedures; and (3) discuss strategies and path forward to address the Commission staff requirements memoranda related to this subject.

The background discussion included: (1) a summary of the ROP gap analysis completed in April 2011 that identified monitoring and controlling groundwater contamination within the PRS cornerstone as a potential area for improvement; (2) the Commission paper (Office of the Secretary (SECY)-11-0076) from June 2011 that recommended the staff pursue potential enhancements to the PRS cornerstone to address the recommendation; (3) the direction from the Commission in response to that paper; and (4) other recent efforts, reports, and Commission direction concerning ground water contamination.

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To provide some ROP background and context, several slides were presented that described the ROP objectives, framework, and process that considers performance indicators (PIs) along with inspection findings within each cornerstone to determine licensee performance and the appropriate regulatory response. Finally, the staff presented the PRS cornerstone objectives along with some discussion of the existing performance indicator and inspection program, with a focus on the extent that groundwater protection is addressed.

Participants in the meeting discussed potential opportunities for enhancement within the PRS cornerstone. Some felt that the primary issue is the inconsistency in understanding as to why leaks and spills don't contribute significantly to public dose. Participants noted that plants are designed, licensed, and operated to minimize dose, that the robust regulatory structure anticipates leaks and spills and that controls are in place to minimize potential dose to the public. The participants generally agreed that the transparency in monitoring and reporting leaks and spills was the major contributor to the lack of public confidence in this area. An industry representative pointed out that NEI 07-07, "Industry Ground Water Protection Initiative [GPI]," was developed to address these concerns. Specifically, the GPI enhances monitoring to prevent releases from migrating offsite, and there is a low threshold for recording and disclosing leaks and spills to the NRC and local officials. Another participant noted that leveraging the industry initiatives in this area was specifically recommended by the staff in SECY-11-0076 to address the perceived gap.

Both internal and external stakeholders felt that the existing PI program and significance determination process had an appropriate focus on public dose, and no additional changes were recommended at this time to either of these program areas. However, the participants noted that a potential exists to bolster the inspection program guidance to provide the inspectors with clearer direction to document non-conformances with or failures to meet the GPI (and perhaps other voluntary industry initiatives) in NRC inspection reports, regardless of whether the issue of concern meets the definition of more-than-minor. Although minor issues and violations are not routinely documented, Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0612, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports," already provides for documenting an issue of concern, regardless of whether it involves a violation of requirements, if it relates directly to an issue of agency-wide concern, or is allowed by an appendix to IMC 0612 or by the governing inspection procedure (IP) or temporary instruction (TI). In fact, IMC 0612 already specifically states that limited documentation of the NRC's review of events associated with radioactive leaks and spills should be provided in the inspection report for those leaks and spills reported to State and local authorities even when there were no performance deficiencies identified or the finding is determined to be minor.

Participants also discussed the Commission's direction to the staff to monitor the effectiveness of the GPI, and present any information that demonstrates that the voluntary initiative is not being conducted in a committed and enduring fashion. Participants noted that documenting non-conformances with the initiative in an NRC inspection report would provide an efficient means to monitor and record whether licensees are committed to the initiative in an open and transparent manner. Consistent with current IMC 0612 guidance, participants discussed the option to either add specific guidance for documenting non-conformances with the GPI in IMC 0612 itself or in the governing inspection procedure, likely IP 71124.06, "Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment." The preferred approach appeared to be keeping IMC 0612 at a higher level, permitting the practice to allow for minor violations or observations to be documented if specifically noted in an IP or TI, and adding the specific guidance to IP 71124.06

(and any other IPs and TIs as appropriate). The participants also agreed that this topic should be further discussed and brought to resolution in future ROP working group meetings. The next ROP working group meeting will be held on June 27, 2012. The participants also recommended that the status of this effort be mentioned at the upcoming Radioactive Effluent Technical Specifications and Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program workshop, a forum to exchange practical experiences and issues related to radioactive effluent and environmental monitoring, being held the last week in June.

Enclosures:

As stated

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Enclosures:  
As stated

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NAME	RFrahm	UShoop	RFranovich
DATE	06/12/12	06/13/12	06/18/12

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

**Potential Enhancements to the  
Public Radiation Safety Cornerstone  
of the ROP**

**May 30, 2012**

**Meeting Attendance**

Ronald Frahm	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Rani Franovich	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Steven Vaughn	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Chris Cauffman	NRC/NRR/DIRS
Undine Shoop	NRC/NRR/DRA
Roger Pedersen	NRC/NRR/DRA
Richard Conatser	NRC/NRR/DRA
Steve Garry	NRC/NRR/DRA
James Slider	NEI
Ralph Andersen	NEI

**By Teleconference:**

Kathy Yhip	NEI
Ellen Anderson	NEI
Larry Parker	STARS
Brendan Daly	PSEG Nuclear
John Russell	PSEG Nuclear
Don Mayer	Entergy
Tony Zimmerman	Progress Energy
Louise England	Progress Energy
Gordon Williams	South Texas Project

Enclosure