

Update on Activities Not Within a Tier

Recommendation 1—Regulatory Framework

In SRM-SECY-11-0093, "Near-Term Report and Recommendations for Agency Actions Following the Events in Japan," dated August 19, 2011, the Commission directed that NTTF Recommendation 1 should be pursued independently of any activities associated with the review of the other Task Force recommendations. To carry out this direction, the staff established a working group (WG) to develop a comprehensive set of options for the Commission, including resource estimates, schedules, and the staff's recommended approach.

Initially, work on Recommendation 1 was limited to allow key staff and managers to focus on the Tier 1 orders and RFI. Active efforts resumed in February 2012; in March 2012, the WG briefed the Steering Committee on its proposed approach to evaluating regulatory framework alternatives. In early May 2012, the WG briefed the Steering Committee to ensure alignment with plans to limit the scope of the initial Recommendation 1 effort to power reactor safety (operating plants and new designs recently or currently being certified, such as the AP1000 and economic simplified boiling-water reactor (ESBWR)). The first public meeting was held on June 20, 2012. The staff met with the ACRS subcommittee in August and December 2012. On November 2, 2012, the staff publicly released an option summary document with detailed information on the framework improvement options under evaluation. These options were discussed in a public meeting held on November 8, 2012. A public comment period was opened in early November and closed on December 14, 2012.

The staff is preparing a Commission paper with recommendations (including preliminary cost and schedule estimates) for activities that could be undertaken to address the issues raised by Recommendation 1. The Japan Lessons Learned Project Directorate (JLD) Steering Committee is evaluating these draft recommendations. Following this evaluation, the recommendations will be presented to the ACRS for additional review before they are given to the Commission. The staff plans to submit an extension request to extend the current due date (February 19, 2013) for providing this Commission paper. Because the staff is now reevaluating the schedule for this activity, the dates for the final ACRS subcommittee and full committee meetings are being rescheduled.

Consideration of Economic Consequences

On August 14, 2012, the staff issued SECY-12-0110, "Consideration of Economic Consequences within the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Regulatory Framework" (ADAMS Package Accession No. ML12173A478), for the Commission's consideration. The staff recommended an option to enhance the consistency of regulatory analysis guidance, which is used when considering economic consequences from offsite property damage within regulatory, backfit, and environmental analyses. In addition, the staff held a Commission briefing on economic consequences on September 11, 2012. In response to the SRM from this briefing (ADAMS Accession No. ML12278A395), the staff is engaging international and Federal counterparts to gain more information on their practices regarding economic consequences and is awaiting an SRM on SECY-12-0110.

National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Study

As directed by the U.S. Congress, the NRC transferred \$2 million to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to fund an NAS study of the lessons learned from the events at the Fukushima nuclear plant. Since the previous 6-month update, NAS has established the study committee and held three information-gathering meetings on lessons learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident. One of the information-gathering meetings was recently held in Tokyo, Japan, which included a meeting with Japanese experts and an in-depth tour of the Fukushima Dai-ichi facility. Future NAS meetings will address NRC actions taken on recommendations in the NAS report published in 2006, "Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage." NAS has stated that the final report will be released in April 2014.

Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) Activities

The CNS is an international treaty that commits contracting parties (participating Member States) to a high level of safety in nuclear power plants by setting international benchmarks. At the CNS Fifth Review Meeting, held on April 4–15, 2011, in Vienna, Austria, the contracting parties agreed to hold an Extraordinary Meeting in August 2012 to focus on the potential nuclear safety issues raised by the Fukushima accident. Consistent with this commitment, NRC staff prepared the U.S. national report for the 2012 CNS Extraordinary Meeting with the U.S. Department of State, DOE, and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations as a representative of the U.S. nuclear industry. The U.S. national report ([NUREG-1650, Revision 4, ADAMS Accession No. ML12221A013](#)) is a standalone document that describes U.S. actions being taken or planned in response to the Fukushima event.

The CNS Extraordinary Meeting took place in Vienna, Austria, from August 27–31, 2012, in which NRC staff attended and actively participated. It was concluded that most contracting parties that have nuclear power plants have conducted targeted safety reviews and are taking additional actions to enhance the protection of the plants from extreme natural hazards. The contracting parties identified a range of topics, such as external events and accident management, which require followup discussions. Therefore, in addition to the regular CNS reporting items, the contracting parties are required to address these Fukushima-related topics in their 2013 CNS national reports. The U.S. national report currently is being updated. The 2013 national report is scheduled to be sent to the Commission in early June to support the IAEA established submittal deadline of August 16, 2013.

Details on the outcome and conclusion of the CNS Extraordinary Meeting can be found in the [Summary Report](#) that the President of the Convention, Mr. Li Ganjie, issued. The report can be found on the Convention on Nuclear Safety webpage on the IAEA website at <http://www-ns.iaea.org/conventions/nuclear-safety.asp>.

Potential Consensus Standards Development

In a letter dated July 2, 2012, ANS expressed to the staff an interest in developing consensus standards related to guidance on carrying out lessons learned from Fukushima (ADAMS Accession No. ML12227A399). The staff responded on September 28, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12229A354) and committed to hold a public meeting with ANS, other standards development organizations, and the industry to discuss which of the lessons learned might be most appropriate, if any, to pursue standards development. The staff indicated that Tier 3 activities might provide the best opportunity for standards development, given the longer timeframe associated with those activities. The public meeting was held on

November 30, 2012, with presentations from ANS, ASME, NEI, and NRC staff. The Tier 3 item related to reactor and containment instrumentation was identified as a potential candidate for consensus standard development. The staff expects to continue conversing with stakeholders on this issue, as well as other lessons learned, as implementation continues over the next several years. A summary of the public meeting is available at ADAMS Accession No. ML12356A086.

Communication with Stakeholders

In FY 2012, the staff held 82 public meetings related to Japan lessons learned. Most of these meetings included use of webinar, webcasting, and teleconferencing to allow greater participation by individuals from remote locations. Many of these meetings centered on guidance development for carrying out Tier 1 actions. Additionally, the NRC Steering Committee continues to meet publicly with the industry's steering committee approximately quarterly to discuss and resolve issues related to lessons learned. The staff and industry continue to find these joint steering committee meetings useful exchanges that highlight the importance of senior executive engagement and cooperation in moving forward with carrying out the lessons learned from Fukushima.

On January 23, 2013, a public meeting was held to discuss potential improvements in the NRC's communication of significant regulatory issues. One topic discussed was "reflections on NRC's communications since the Fukushima event, including actions the NRC has taken in response to the event." The staff received feedback on how well the agency has communicated information about lessons-learned activities in the time since the initial interest in the Fukushima event, and it is using that feedback to inform future communications activities. A summary of the meeting discussions will be given to the Commission and senior NRC management.

In late 2012, the staff established a team to examine and establish tools and methods to strategically communicate Japan lessons learned activities to the NRC's array of internal and external stakeholders. This Strategic Communications Team is comprised of staff not only from the JLD, but also staff from the variety of offices often tangentially affected by communication needs related to Fukushima lessons learned. Furthermore, the Team has partnered with staff in the Web services and graphics departments to enhance the quality and efficiency of communications tools. The Team expects to evaluate communication needs on a continuing basis, including a focus on events and milestones that are achieved as lessons-learned implementation progresses.