

April 10, 2014

MEMORANDAM TO: William D. Reckley, Chief
Policy and Support Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Lauren K. Gibson, Project Manager **/RA/**
Policy and Support Branch
Japan Lessons-Learned Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 25, 2014, PUBLIC JOINT STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EVENT

On March 25, 2014, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Steering Committee and the Industry Steering Committee for applying the lessons-learned from the events at Fukushima Daiichi. The meeting was held in T2-B3, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The NRC slides used in the meeting are available at the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14084A552. A list of participants is provided as an Enclosure to this document. The meeting was webcast and can be found at the following link for video archives: <http://video.nrc.gov/>.

After introductory remarks by the NRC and industry, Michael R. Johnson, the Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs, spoke briefly about the recent trip to Japan by NRC Senior Managers. It was a moving and valuable experience.

Then, the NRC staff presented the slides on Mitigation Strategies (MS). The Interim Staff Evaluations have all been issued. The NRC Staff is continuing audits and is looking for the licensees to identify those items for which they would like regulatory assurance. The NRC staff reiterated that licensees are not expected to be 100 percent complete with activities prior to the site visit. A few relaxation requests have been received, including 6 for an additional third outage past 2016 due to aligning with the schedule for the vents order. The NRC is reviewing plans for the Regional Response Centers and plans to formally document the review. The exact forms of that documentation and the addressees have not yet been determined. The industry noted that the Regional Response Centers are being run by a group called SAFER. The board of that group is made up of power plant representatives.

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Also, the NRC staff is developing a template for the mitigating strategies audit to share with the industry. The options for the long-term regulatory treatment of mitigating strategies were reviewed. There is an April 10, 2014 industry meeting at which both the overall regulatory treatment and the documentation of the regional response centers will be discussed. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) is interested in mitigation strategies, and the NRC and the industry are working with the ACRS to determine the date for the meeting.

Next, the NRC announced that the staff's approach and schedule for reviewing the integrated plans for the Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) Instrumentation order is being combined with the review for Mitigating Strategies. Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation will now be handled through the audit process rather than the traditional request for additional information process. A common safety evaluation will be issued post compliance. Industry indicated that this approach made sense, and urged us to continue to look for ways to integrate efforts since the integration helps ensure that the right attention is being given to the most safety significant work.

The focus then shifted to the seismic and flooding walkdowns. The safety assessments are in development, and the majority of them are expected to be issued between February and June 2014.

The NRC staff is prepared to receive the seismic hazard reevaluations, which are due March 31, 2014. The NRC received the industry report on the seismic risk of Central and Eastern United States Plants (ADAMS Accession No. ML14083A596) dated March 12, 2014. The NRC staff has not seen any showstoppers in the letter. The NRC managers provided a detailed perspective on how the staff intends to proceed with the review of the submittals to be received from licensees in the Central and Eastern United States by March 31, 2014. The presentation focused, in particular, on the staff's plan to efficiently complete screening, prioritization, and interim evaluation/action reviews within approximately 45 days of receiving the submittals (see also item (6) below). Industry representatives were appreciative of the work done by the staff to develop this plan and were supportive of it. Industry representatives also noted the need for further dialogue regarding how the NRC may decide to make specific regulatory decisions after gathering information from licensee seismic hazard and seismic risk evaluations. The NRC managers agreed that it would be appropriate to begin such a dialogue soon.

The NRC managers then raised the topic of flooding hazard reevaluations. They noted that of the licensees for those facilities whose reevaluations were due by March 12, 2014, a number of them have requested extensions. The presentation stressed the information that the staff needed in order to evaluate the acceptability of the requested extensions and indicated that the staff would need to gather more information from most of those licensees requesting extensions before being able to complete its evaluation.

A significant discussion also focused on the nature of the flooding reevaluations that licensees are expected to perform and the resulting hazards for which they may need to provide interim actions. Industry representatives expressed the view that the deterministic flooding hazard reevaluation process that licensees are being asked to implement is resulting in, for at least some licensees, hazards that industry representatives view as "too extreme" or of such a low likelihood that focusing on protecting against these events inappropriately diverts industry and NRC resources from focusing on more safety significant situations. NRC management

responded by noting two points. First, the methodology that licensees have been asked to use to develop their flooding hazards is consistent with current day guidance and methodologies applicable to defining the design basis at new nuclear power plant sites, which is consistent with Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1. Second, to broadly classify the resulting hazards as “too extreme” is not technically justifiable because, for certain hazards, similar events have occurred. Additionally, NRC management cautioned industry on attempting to classify the flooding hazards being developed as a part of the reevaluations as “too extreme” or “too unlikely,” because they are being developed using deterministic methods and the scientific community has not established an accepted method to compute return periods for flood hazards of relevance to defining the design basis at nuclear power plant sites. Both NRC and industry representatives agreed that it is important to remain focused on those plants which may show the greatest flooding hazard vulnerability and that the development and use of probabilistic approaches for flooding hazard evaluations is an important topic for additional discussion.

The meeting then moved on to the status of rulemaking. The staff is seeking Commission approval to consolidate certain post-Fukushima rulemakings with the overall schedule remaining unchanged. The Nuclear Energy Institute and Industry indicated that they are supportive of this effort by letter dated March 7, 2014, (ADAMS Accession No. ML14087A195). The NRC will address the industry’s detailed comments as they proceed with the rulemaking process. Additional public meetings on all the rulemaking efforts are anticipated.

Recently completed and forthcoming milestones as well as focus areas were discussed.

The areas of focus until the next Joint Steering Committee are:

- Safe, Timely, and Effective Implementation of MS and SFP orders
- Identification and implementation of interim actions (as needed) for seismic and flooding
- Seismic Hazard Re-evaluation Screening and Prioritization
- Discussion of Licensing Basis for MS
- Phase 2 of the Seismic Hazard Reevaluation Analysis
- Capturing and sharing insights as the MS and SFP audits get underway
- Regional Response Centers
- Alignment on Flooding Reevaluations

A common theme throughout the industry discussions was the desire that a certain amount of prioritization occurs so that the appropriate attention is paid to the most safety significant items. In their closing comments, the industry noted that they are also focusing on the human elements.

The NRC and the industry discussed laying out a schedule for the Joint Steering Committee Meetings for the rest of the year. The next meeting has not yet been set.

W. Reckley

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Members of the public were in attendance in the room and through the teleconference. Public Meeting Feedback forms were not received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1056 or Lauren.Gibson@nrc.gov.

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

Members of the public were in attendance in the room and through the teleconference. Public Meeting Feedback forms were not received.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-1056 or Lauren.Gibson@nrc.gov.

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

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ADAMS Accession No: ML14091A102

*concurrence via e-mail

OFFICE	NRR/JLD/PSB/PM	NRR/JLD/LA	NRR/JLD/PSB/BC	NRR/JLD/PSB/PM
NAME	LKGibson	SLent*	WReckley	LKGibson
DATE	3/4/2014	3/31/14	3/8/2014	3/10/2014

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

LIST OF ATTENDEES

MARCH 25, 2014

PUBLIC JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The participants from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) included:

- Michael Johnson, Deputy Executive Director for Operations
- Eric Leeds, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
- Scott Flanders, Division Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis (DSEA), Office of New Reactors (NRO)
- Jack Davis, Director, Mitigating Strategies Directorate (MSD), NRR
- Lawrence Kokajko, Division Director, Division of Policy and Rulemaking, NRR
- Lauren Gibson, Project Manager, Japan Lessons Learned Directorate (JLD) , NRR
- Jeremy Bowen, Branch Chief, Projects Branch, MSD/NRR

The participants from the industry included:

- David Heacock, President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Dominion Nuclear
- Jim Scarola, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
- Joseph Pollock, Vice President, Nuclear Operations, NEI
- Anthony Pietrangelo, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, NEI
- Steven Kraft, NEI

Additional NRC staff members, industry representatives, and members of the public were in attendance in person or through the teleconference.

Enclosure