

July 30, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Sunil Weerakkody, Branch Chief
PRA Operations and Human Factors Branch
Division of Risk Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Michael Montecalvo, Reactor Operations Engineer /RA/
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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JULY 9, 2015 PUBLIC MEETING TO
CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE NRC AND
INDUSTRY RISK-INFORMED STEERING COMMITTEES
(RISC)

On July 9, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a Category 2 public meeting to continue discussions between the NRC and industry Risk-Informed Steering Committees (RISC). The purpose of the meeting was to engage the industry and public in a discussion of the progress of the working groups formed by the RISCs and to discuss other risk-informed topics of interest. The meeting notice is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML15159A232. The presentation provided by the NRC Treatment of Uncertainty in Decision Making Working Group is available in ADAMS Accession Number ML15187A277. The presentation provided by the Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Technical Adequacy Working Group is available in ADAMS Accession Number ML15194A097. The industry PRA Technical Adequacy Working Group lead provided a presentation on industry follow-on activities which is available in ADAMS Accession Number ML15194A090. The industry RISC also provided a presentation on their priorities moving forward which is available in ADAMS Accession Number ML15194A083.

The NRC working group leads provided an update on actions taken since the last meeting including public meetings held and the status of white papers that were developed by the industry and are being reviewed by the NRC. The working groups are developing action plans to complete the recommendations discussed within the white papers. The NRC working group leads noted that the actions would be completed by the responsible line organization within established processes. The discussion on other risk-informed activities focused on how both the industry and NRC can use risk-insights to inform decision-making activities and possible areas where the RISCs can collaborate to further the efforts.

A list of individuals that participated in the meeting is provided as an enclosure to this document. No feedback forms were received after the meeting.

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Opening comments

The NRC RISC chair opened the meeting stating that he is pleased with the progress of the working groups to date and they are near the culmination of their activities. He also stated that the purpose of this meeting was to update the RISCs on the working group's progress and for the RISCs to discuss other risk-informed areas of interest for both the NRC and industry. The industry has appointed a new RISC co-chair who provided opening comments on the success of the RISCs and the working group's progress to date. He also cautioned the group to stay true to the original purpose of the formation of the committees.

PRA Technical Adequacy Working Group

The NRC working group lead gave an update on the working group progress and activities that have taken place since the last meeting. The NRC working group lead discussed interactions that the working group has had with the NRC Office of General Counsel (OGC) regarding the industry proposal in the white paper. Specifically, the working group discussed concerns over the vetting panel to ensure it is not structured as an advisory committee as defined under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and the sensitivity there needs to be within the process of inherent government functions. The staff is currently working with industry to ensure that the last of the staff's comments are incorporated into the industry white paper. The NRC working group lead commented that guidance related to the industry proposal will still need to be developed before a pilot could move forward. The NRC working group will issue a memo to the NRC RISC with a recommended course of action based on the final industry white paper. The NRC working group lead expects the memo to be available in September and the next step for the working groups will be to develop guidance and a timeline for the pilot implementation. Once the pilot is complete, the working groups will evaluate the process and recommend improvements to move forward to implementation.

Treatment of Uncertainty in Decision Making Working Group

The NRC working group lead gave an update on the working group progress and their review of the industry white paper. The working group drafted a memo to the NRC RISC members, available in ADAMS accession number ML15084A355, to express the working group's endorsement with caveats of the recommendations in the industry white paper. The NRC working group lead presented the eight recommendations outlined in the white paper and identified a line organization within the NRC that would be responsible for the effort moving forward. He also stressed that the dates contained in the presentation are subject to change based on competing priorities and the key to success with the actions would be continued collaboration with the industry. Other working group members commented that some of the actions were already underway (e.g. workshop on NUREG-1855, Guidance on the Treatment of Uncertainties Associated with PRAs in Risk-Informed Decision Making) and those efforts will be informed by the insights of the working group. The NRC RISC members noted that it may be necessary to issue Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) in appropriate areas to expedite the availability of mutually beneficial insights gained from the working groups.

Other Risk-Informed Topics of Interest

The NRC RISC chair stated that it is in the best interest of the agency and the industry that an appropriate level of effort be expended on issues based on their safety significance. Bringing risk insights to compliance issues of low safety significance is an example and would help the agency better utilize resources to focus on the issues that yield the largest safety benefit. The industry RISC members noted that the two main topics of interest for the industry are crediting "flex" equipment within licensees PRAs and the aggregation of risk across multiple hazards.

Both the NRC chair and industry co-chairs discussed having more open discussion related to risk insights, decision making, and how the industry and NRC can work together to benefit both. The groups committed to continued collaboration in areas of interest and focusing on issues dealing with the greatest safety benefit.

Closing remarks

The industry RISC co-chair commented that the discussion was encouraging and he is looking forward to being more involved with these initiatives. The NRC RISC chair highlighted the work being completed by the working groups and closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation.

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

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NAME	MMontecalvo	SWeerakkody
DATE	7/ 30 /2015	7/ 30 /2015

LIST OF MEETING ATTENDEES

[illegible]

* Participated by teleconference

ENCLOSURE