

February 8, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Kevin Hsueh, Chief
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Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager /RA/
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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 13, 2016, MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR
ENERGY INSTITUTE ON ENG-003 STANDARD DESIGN PROCESS
UNDER THE DELIVERING NUCLEAR PROMISE

On October 13, 2016, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ENG-003 Standard Design Process and ENG-001 Critical Component Reduction. These are two elements under industry's initiative titled "Delivering Nuclear Promise." All information related to the meeting including the NEI presentation and attendees list can be found in the Agencywide Document and Accession Management System package accession number ML16273A003.

NEI provided some background on the effort by explaining that the process had been initiated through a pilot effort of 23 units, and industry wanted to brief NRC staff so that staff had an opportunity to ask questions. Further, NEI stated that the presentation would help provide some understanding of critical issues and what resident inspectors could see at plants as the process was implemented. NEI finished its opening remarks by stating that the process was looking to improve efficiency, and at the same time make plants more safe and reliable.

During the presentations and discussions, questions were asked about aspects of the process. One question asked if designs generated from the process will be consistent across plants or just the engineering process. Industry stated that the intent was to be consistent in the design. For example, industry said that the seismic design loading would be used across plants to generate a design that enveloped all sites.

Industry reported that the process would be implemented by the issuance of an Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) efficiency bulletin to all utilities. It explained that there are three colors for an INPO bulletin. They were: green which was optional; blue which was required, but could be implemented on the plant schedule; and red which all plants must implement at the same time. The Chief Nuclear Officers of utilities were committed to this process and in agreement with the color scheme of the bulletin for this initiative should be red.

The NRC staff asked if industry had identified any NRC areas, including Technical Specifications Task Force adoption and approval process and inspections, that could be improved. The response was that this had not been considered but there might be several opportunities. Thus, industry would make sure to consider this as it moved forward.

A final topic discussed was if or how topical reports could be used in the process. It was agreed that this topic would be treated as a parking lot item. An action was generated to schedule an interaction between NEI and the NRC staff. As the staff is currently soliciting input on the topical report review process to revise its office instruction, this interaction would provide additional insights on the overall efficiency of the topical report reviews and how it could be improved. Plus it would look at the inspection process to see if there were any impacts there.

The meeting ended with industry requesting any feedback the resident inspectors provided related to the process.

Project No. 689

K. Hsueh

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