

## **Meeting Summary: NRC Public Meeting with the NEI RITF**

October 20, 2016

### NRC Licensing Action Planning, Scheduling and Oversight

NRC provided an update of the industry's licensing submittal schedules along with an assessment of how well the submittals matched the ones provided by the licensees in response to RIS 2015-16.

Data from the second quarter of 2016 was presented, as follows:

Total number of actions submitted:	220
Actions submitted early:	25
Actions submitted late:	29
Actions cancelled:	55

This equates to schedule consistency/stability of about 75%, which compares favorably with the 7% value achieved in 2014-2015. NRC indicated that data quality (schedule accuracy) was continually improving with time. NRC is now using this data to move resources and personnel around to match the anticipated workload. For example, the data indicated a peak in work coming in from Region II plants which was greater than the combined workload anticipated from the other three regions. Key resources in demand are in the areas of electrical engineering, PRA, and operator licensing. NRR is evaluating the use of contractors and in-house "tiger teams" to improve licensing review efficiency.

Licensees are verbally providing updated schedule information to the NRC licensing project managers on roughly a biweekly basis and this information is being uploaded into NRC's integrated planning tool. NRR stated that annual NRC RIS requests for schedule updates will no longer be needed and thanked the industry for the 100% participation observed.

NRC indicated they are also developing long-range plans to be prepared for applications for accident tolerant fuel and Generation IV reactors.

### Technical Adequacy of Licensing Actions

NRC provided an update on efforts to improve the consistency of licensing reviews in terms of level of detail and acceptable content. The NRC is developing templates for a review standard for selected topics/types of licensing actions. These templates would provide better direction and guidance to NRC reviewers on what is expected/acceptable to the agency. The templates would be somewhat more detailed than the Standard Review Plan, but would not be publically available.

### Regulatory Performance Dashboard

The industry provided a summary of efforts to develop a small set of performance metrics that would measure efficiency in the licensing process and adherence to some of the principles and good practices implemented by NRC under Project AIM Task 19. For example, one indicator would measure trends within the license amendment acceptance process with the objective of understanding the causes of rejected applications. The industry stated their objective to have a set of indicators based on data from the first quarter of 2017 for internal use. As the quality of the

indicators improves in the future, the industry will consider sharing them with NRC and other external stakeholders.

#### Industry Operability Determination Guidance

The RITF provided a brief status of the NEI operability guidance currently under development. The entry conditions for the operability determination process have been defined, and the focus is now on how to establish operability. Once this is defined, the industry will “back test” the process using actual plant issues that were the subject of operability reviews during the past year or two. This work will continue well into 2017.

#### Process for Long-Term Discretion for TS Compliance Issues

NRR has developed a draft process (possibly a revision to IMC-0410) which has been out for concurrence review at the regions and NRC headquarters. Forty-eight comments have been received, all of which NRR feels can be resolved acceptably. For example, one comment from the regions concerned the practicality of the timelines for requesting/issuing discretion. Commissioner Baran has expressed interest in this proposed process and his technical assistant has been observing meetings where it is discussed. NRC commented that the risk thresholds in R.G. 1.174 will be used to define whether an issue was a candidate for discretion. NRC is attempting to develop an estimate of how often the process would be used by the industry. NRC expects to have the process ready for public discussion prior to the March 2017 NRC Regulatory Information Conference (RIC).

#### NRC Generic Communications

The industry suggested that the NRC monthly list of “Open Generic Communication TACs” become a standard agenda item for the RITF meeting. From the list published September 30, 2016, industry requested an update on the draft RIS “Safety-Related SSCs in Service Beyond Service Life.” NRC stated that the RIS was in final review following receipt of internal comments and should be issued within the next few months. The NRC said that comments provided by the industry during the summer had been resolved. The industry reiterated to NRC the high level of interest in this RIS.

#### NEI 2017 Licensing Forum

The industry stated that the 2017 forum had been scheduled for August 22-24 at the OMNI Shoreham Hotel. The RITF thanked the NRC for its involvement in making the 2016 Licensing Forum a success.

#### Schedule for 2017 RITF Meetings

The industry proposed three meetings to be held in February, July, and October 2017.