

CERTIFIED

ACRS-2301
PDR 051385

ISSUED: Apr. 9, 1985

COMBINED SUMMARY/MINUTES OF THE
APRIL 5, 1985 MEETING OF THE ACRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE LONG RANGE PLAN FOR NRC

A meeting was held by the ACRS Subcommittee on the Long Range Plan for NRC on April 5, 1985. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on developing a long range plan for the NRC. Topics under discussion are technical and administrative issues related to the regulation of nuclear power plant safety and safety regulation over the next five to ten years. Notice of the meeting was published in the Federal Register on March 19, 1985 (Attachment A). The meeting was entirely open to the public. Richard Major was the cognizant staff member for this meeting.

Participants:

M. Carbon, Chairman
D. Moeller, Member
F. Remick, Member
C. Wylie, Member
H. Lewis, Member
R. Axtmann, Member
C. Siess, Member

Richard Major, Staff
R. Fraley, Staff
M. Libarkin, Staff
R. Cushman, Fellow

This was the Subcommittee's second session. The Subcommittee continued discussions among itself of topics discussed during the March 1, 1985 Subcommittee meeting. The goal was to continue to scope a course of action to be presented to the full Committee in April.

Currently the end product of this effort is seen as a Committee report to the Commission suggesting elements which could be included in a long range plan for the agency. A long range plan would contain goals that the agency should try to attain over the next five to ten years.

The Subcommittee discussed the breadth of topics to be included for discussion. The overall focus of discussions will be on how to attain safety for the nuclear power enterprise. Topics will address the strategy for attaining safety as well as technical topics which must be considered in meeting the agency's safety mission.

The agency's Policy Planning Guidance 1985 document, number 4 (NUREG-0885) was thought to be a good model for the Subcommittee. It was noted, however, that the PPG document is limited to a one-year scope.

Subcommittee members commented that there is a need to allow utilities more leeway regarding self-regulation. Utility and industry expertise should be brought to bear on the problems of the technology. The majority of technical expertise is found in the industry, not the Commission's staff. It was suggested that the NRC's adversarial role in the industry is a major problem. It was thought greater self-regulation by the industry is possible; however, a stumbling block to this progress would be whether or not the Congress, the public, and the NRC itself still perceives the agency as a credible regulator.

The Subcommittee discussed the hearing process. It was felt that the process was too long, costly and did not contribute substantially to safety. Dr. Remick, who has served on hearing panels, explained that the hearing process does indeed address technical issues of safety significance. It was suggested that the length of time necessary to get a plant licensed is precluding the nuclear option in this country.

It was suggested that the Subcommittee look into forecasts of the need for electric power over the next fifteen years. The need for new generating capacity will affect long range planning.

The Subcommittee decided that sabotage should be added to the list of topics for the Subcommittee's consideration. A discussion took place in which the sense of the Subcommittee indicated the design basis for sabotage should be expanded.

The types of licenses the NRC issues were discussed. In the future, as standard plant designs become more the norm issuance of a license to a manufacturer in a manner similar to the FAA's "air worthiness"

certificate should be considered. The present standardization policy is currently moving in this direction.

Since the Office of Policy Evaluation is performing a separate, but parallel effort, in developing a long range plan, the Subcommittee decided to meet periodically with OPE. These sessions will allow an exchange of ideas.

The form that future NRC regulation should take was discussed. The question of should NRC regulation move in the direction of performance-based rules, rather than prescriptive rules was asked. It was noted that the law in the U.S. is basically performance based; it is backed up by the experience of specific case reviews. It was suggested that the General Design Criteria are somewhat performance based. The Standard Review Plan adds the case wisdom in specific plant reviews. There was some concern expressed over whether or not utilities could easily comply with performance based criteria. Past experience, it was felt, indicated utilities would not take any initiative until a prescriptive requirement was issued.

The Subcommittee reviewed a modified draft review plan prepared by Dr. Carbon. This document will focus the full Committee's attention during the April 1985 full Committee meeting. Advice and comments from the full Committee will be factored into the review plan prior to further Subcommittee action.

The review plan is currently divided into two categories, technical issues and issues concerning the regulatory process. Below is a listing of subtopics under the two main headings.

A. Technical Issues

1. Regulatory Simplification
2. Safety Philosophy
3. Safety Research
4. Attitudes Adverse to Safety
5. Automation of NPP Operation
6. Entire Question of Quality Assurance
7. Standardization
8. Excessive Conservatism
9. Appropriately Safe

B. Regulatory Process

1. Public Participation
2. Personnel and Organization
3. International Safety
4. Early Site Approval
5. Combined CP-OL License
6. Backfitting (Process)

The Subcommittee reviewed a list of people with whom it would like to discuss, over the course of the summer, the topics raised in the review plan. Dr. Carbon will redraft the review plan based on the Subcommittee's advice. Richard Major was asked to provide the names of the regulatory reform task force groups (see Attachment B).

Future meetings will be scheduled on the Wednesday before the full Committee meetings starting in July 1985.

Major

Based on our evaluation, we find that the existing fire protection features in conjunction with alternate shutdown capability for Fire Area 25 provide a level of fire protection equivalent to the technical requirements of Subsection III.G.3 of Appendix R, and therefore, the exemption should be granted.

IV

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemptions requested by the licensee's letters as referenced and discussed in II. and III. above are authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, are otherwise in the public interest, and are hereby granted.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of the exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (50 FR 9735).

This Exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Bethesda, Md., this 13th day of March 1985.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Hugh Thompson,

Director, Division of Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 85-6550 Filed 3-18-85; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7560-01-00

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee on Long Range Plan for the NRC; Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Long Range Plan for the NRC will hold a meeting on April 5, 1985, Room 1046, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The entire meeting will be open to the public attendance.

The agenda for subject meeting shall be as follows:

Friday, April 5, 1985—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will continue discussions on developing a long range plan for the NRC. Topics under discussion are technical and administrative issues related to the regulation of nuclear power plant safety and safety regulation over the next 5 to 10 years.

Oral statement may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting when a transcript is being kept, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its

consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the ACRS staff member named below as far in advance as is practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC Staff, its consultants, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by a prepaid telephone call to the cognizant ACRS staff member, Mr. Richard Major (telephone 202/634-1414) between 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., EST. Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two days before the scheduled meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule, etc., which may have occurred.

Dated: March 14, 1985.

Morton W. Libarkin,

Assistant Executive Director for Project Review.

[FR Doc. 85-6547 Filed 3-18-85; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7560-01-00

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee on Emergency Core Cooling Systems; Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Emergency Core Cooling Systems will hold a meeting on April 3, 1985, Room 1046, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

To the extent practical the meeting will be open to public attendance. However, portions of the meeting may be closed to discuss proprietary information relating to details of the Combustion Engineering CE FLASH 4AS and Westinghouse BART/BASH thermal hydraulic codes.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Wednesday, April 3, 1985—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will discuss the following: (1) The W BART/BASH ECCS codes; (2) review the resolution of TMI Item II.K.3.30, revision of small break LOCA ECCS Evaluation Models; and (3)

review the resolution of the RCP trip issues given a small break LOCA.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting when a transcript is being kept, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and Staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the ACRS staff member named below as far in advance as is practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC Staff, its consultants, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by a prepaid telephone call to the cognizant ACRS staff member, Mr. Paul Boehnert (telephone 202/634-3267) between 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., EST. Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two days before the scheduled meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule, etc., which may have occurred.

Dated: March 14, 1985.

Morton W. Libarkin,

Assistant Executive Director for Project Review.

[FR Doc. 85-6548 Filed 3-18-85; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7560-01-00

Statement of Policy: Handling of Late Allegations

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Statement of Policy: Handling of Late Allegations.

SUMMARY: This policy statement presents the criteria the Commission will follow in addressing late allegations received from sources outside the Commission, in the context of licensing reviews. It also directs that the staff's procedures for notifying Atomic Safety

ATTACHMENT A

4/9/85

MEMBERSHIP OF
THE REGULATORY REFORM TASK FORCE (RRTF)

J. Tourtellotte, RRTF
G. Eysymontt, OPE
F. Miraglia, NRR
P. Crone, OGC
J. Fry, ASLB
S. Wanner, ASLB
J. Gray, ELD
R. Paulus, ORPB

SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP TO THE RRTF

W. Dircks, EDO
A. Rosenthal, ASLAP
J. Tourtellotte, RRTF
H. Plaine, OGC
J. Zerbe, OPE

ATTACHMENT B