



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 22, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael T. Markley, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: G. E. Miller, Project Manager **/RA/**
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 27, 2020, PUBLIC MEETING WITH
NUCLEAR INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LICENSING
NEEDS FOR FALL 2020 REFUELING OUTAGES DUE TO
COVID-19 IMPACTS

On May 27, 2020, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public teleconference with representatives from the nuclear industry, including the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), NextEra, and Entergy. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with NEI and nuclear power plant licensees potential licensing needs for fall 2020 refueling outages (RFO) resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). The meeting notice can be found in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML20135H172.

At the start of the meeting, the NRC staff stated that the meeting was an information gathering dialogue only, and as with all NRC public meetings, no regulatory decisions will be made. Additionally, the NRC stated that none of the information provided in today's meeting should be taken to be a request by any licensee or a decision by the NRC.

After Anna Bradford, Division Director, Division of New and Renewed Licenses (DNRL), in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) made opening remarks, the meeting was turned over to NEI, Entergy, and NextEra to make opening remarks.

Following industry opening remarks, David Rudland, NRC Senior Technical Advisor for Steam Generator Integrity and Materials Inspection, in DNRL, discussed NRC lessons learned related to the spring 2020 COVID-19 relief requests and associated impacts:

- NRC approved approximately 20 COVID-19 related Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50.55a alternatives this spring.
- Use of pre-submittal meetings aided in the understanding of hardship and safety impact.
- Understanding when approval was desired versus needed helped in resource planning.

Mr. Rudland continued to discuss potential relief requests for the fall 2020 RFOs due to impacts of the COVID-19 PHE and discusses the following:

- The NRC process in granting Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Section 55a relief requests has not changed.
- The standard for hardship remains the same before, during, and after COVID-19 PHE
- The hardship basis for the spring 2020 relief requests due to COVID-19 PHE impacts was much more obvious in spring 2020 than may be for fall 2020 RFO potential relief requests.
- Licensees should fully describe hardship, and explain why requests for NRC approval of 10 CFR 50.55a alternatives in short term (June-July timeframe) are needed for any fall 2020 RFO relief requests and not in the immediate months prior to the start of the fall RFOs.
- Licensees should make the hardship case for plant-specific, individual situations. As states and localities change/reduce restrictions, hardship justification may require additional/different information than was provided in spring 2020 RFO COVID-19-related relief requests.
- COVID-19 hardship alternative requests should focus on the specific components where tests or inspections scheduled for fall 2020 RFOs will be impacted by the COVID-19 PHE, rather than requesting programmatic changes to site or fleet-wide testing and inspection programs.

NEI lead a discussion of industry questions to the NRC related to the following:

- What types of hardships are reasonable to submit to the NRC now, given the time between the spring 2020 RFOs and the fall 2020 RFOs?
- Is the NRC considering “conditional relief” if the COVID-19 PHE is still in place at that time?
- Has the NRC considered adjusting the relief regarding the Owners Activity Report, given that it’s based on 90 days after the PHE or the next outage?
- If licensees submit their requests soon (June-July timeframe), would the NRC still process them in an expedited manner like what was done for the spring 2020 RFO relief requests?

No regulatory decisions were made in the meeting.

There no questions or comments from members of the public

Enclosure:

List of Attendees

List of Attendees

May 27, 2020, Public Meeting with the Nuclear Industry

To Discuss Potential Licensing Needs for Fall 2020 Refueling Outage Due to COVID-10 Impacts

Name	Organization
Anna Bradford	NRC/NRR
Dave Rudland	NRC/NRR
Matt Mitchell	NRC/NRR
Scott Burnell	NRC/OPA
Craig Erlanger	NRC/NRR
Ed Miller	NRC/NRR
Tom Basso	NEI
George Gelrich	Exelon
Ron Gaston	Entergy
Steve Catron	NextEra
Cheryl Gayheart	SNC
Larry Nicholson	Certrec
Jerry Humphreys	NJDEP
Larry Parker	Stars Alliance
Jonathan Rowley	NRC/NRR
James Slider	NEI

Enclosure

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 27, 2020, PUBLIC MEETING WITH NUCLEAR INDUSTRY
TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL LICENSING NEEDS FOR FALL 2020 REFUELING
OUTAGES DUE TO COVID-19 IMPACTS DATED JUNE 22, 2020

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC

PM File Copy

RidsACRS_MailCTR Resource

RidsNrrDorl Resource

RidsNrrLAKGoldstein Resource

RidsOpaMail Resource

EMiller, NRR

ADAMS Accession Nos.:**ML20157A112 (Package)****ML20157A118 (Summary)****ML20135H172 (Meeting Notice)*****via e-mail**

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL2-1/PM	NRR/DORL/LPL2-1/LA	NRR/DORL/LPL2-1/BC
NAME	EMiller*	KGoldstein	MMarkley*
DATE	06/22/2020	06/12/2020	06/22/2020
OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL2-1/PM		
NAME	EMiller*		
DATE	06/22/2020		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY