

November 4, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Rani Franovich, Chief/**RA**/
Performance Assessment Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Nathan Sanfilippo, Reactor Operations Engineer
Performance Assessment Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS MONTHLY
PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 15, 2009

On October 15, 2009, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff hosted the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) monthly public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) ROP Task Force (the industry). The meeting attendance list is contained in Enclosure 1, the meeting agenda is contained in Enclosure 2, and the meeting handouts are contained in Enclosure 3.

Discussions by the meeting attendees included: Performance Assessment Branch (IPAB) topics; Reactor Inspection Branch (IRIB) topics; various proposed changes to NEI 99-02, "Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guidance;" and ROP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Details of these discussions are highlighted below.

The Performance Assessment Branch (IPAB) staff discussed proposed revisions to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," Action Matrix guidance. A summary of the upcoming revisions is included in Enclosure 3. This revision is intended to more clearly communicate the status of each plant's current location in the Action Matrix. This will be accomplished by 1) revising the layout of the Action Matrix public web site and providing additional detailed notes, and 2) allowing plants to move from right to left in the Action Matrix mid-quarter when findings held open beyond four quarters have been closed out. In addition to this change, several other changes include 1) consideration of operating experience during mid-cycle and end-of-cycle reviews, 2) relocation of guidance relating to assigning cross-cutting aspects to a new IMC, 3) clarification of the assessment process for findings under appeal, 4) recognition of options for addressing long standing substantive cross-cutting issues, 5) alignment of the safety conscious work environment cross-cutting area with the other cross-cutting areas with respect to cross-cutting themes, and 6) various editorial and administrative enhancements. Updates to the design of the Action Matrix web site will be incorporated for the 3rd quarter 2009 data update.

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IPAB staff also discussed the availability of the biennial ROP external survey. Staff is seeking comments from members of the public, licensees, and interested groups on implementation of the ROP. The survey is accessible via the NRC's public web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>. The comment period ends on November 6, 2009.

There were no IRIB staff topics for the October meeting. The agenda noted discussion on Inspection Procedure (IP) 71152, "Identification and Resolution of Problems," improvements; however, this topic was postponed until the December ROP meeting.

Staff and industry then discussed various proposed changes to NEI 99-02. Discussion continued on a whitepaper proposing a change to the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) component boundary. Failures associated with the EDG fuel oil transfer pumps are currently not monitored as part of the EDG unreliability index, even though the EDG fuel oil system is risk-significant at many plants. During the meeting, IPAB staff presented an updated whitepaper, included in Enclosure 3, based on the simplified process discussed at the September meeting. This process involves incorporation of the EDG fuel oil transfer pump within the supercomponent boundary of the EDG, but changes the mission time used for pump failures from 24 hours to a lesser number derived from the plant probabilistic risk assessment (PRA). The staff is willing to move forward with this approach without revising the constrained, non-informative prior distribution (CNIP), which it had previously proposed to update to eliminate the lack of responsiveness in the indicator to known failures ("pillow effect"). While staff advocates the supercomponent change, the industry proposed monitoring the fuel oil transfer pump as a separate component (keeping the current prior and posterior failure risk distributions), provided that licensees update the PRA for that system. IPAB staff will develop a basis for using the supercomponent approach using data from recent laboratory studies and will present that during the next ROP meeting. Likewise, NEI will develop their separate component approach into a white paper for the next meeting.

In previous meetings, the industry suggested making changes to the definitions of failure to run and failure to load/run basic event failure mode classifications relating to the EDG MSPI. Discussion continued on this topic; however, IPAB and the industry are still evaluating available data. During this meeting, IPAB staff agreed to the previously proposed failure mode definitions. In response, the industry will develop a revised paper using these definitions and proposing a path forward. As part of this process, NRC will rebaseline the failure data given the new failure mode definitions.

IPAB staff then presented a request to NEI regarding the collection of MSPI basis documents, included in Enclosure 3. This request was made to enable NRC staff to have the current revision of MSPI basis documents for reference. Industry representatives indicated that the documents could be obtained by NEI early in 2010, and the NRC staff awaits a proposal of when those documents can be made available.

NRC staff continued discussion of concerns over inconsistent interpretation and implementation of Safety System Functional Failure (SSFF) reporting. IPAB and IRIB staff are evaluating data to determine if SSFFs are being reported accurately by licensees in accordance with requirements in 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(v). Guidance for reportability is contained in NUREG-1022, Revision 2. During previous meetings, discussion related to determining the correct industry task force to evaluate NUREG-1022 revisions. NEI indicated that the Licensing Action Task

Force would be the correct party for those discussions. In parallel to that effort, the ROP working group is evaluating the usefulness of the SSFF PI in its current format. IPAB staff will develop a strawman to propose a path forward to evaluate the SSFF PI and whether a new PI should be developed to take its place. This strawman will be discussed at a future ROP meeting.

The topic of withdrawal of FAQs was discussed during the meeting. During several previous ROP meetings, the NRC staff discussed concerns regarding the process for withdrawal of FAQs once they have been formally introduced into the FAQ process. The staff is concerned that substantial time and resources are spent on FAQs, and when a licensee chooses to withdraw, there is no retained record of the research and knowledge gained for future reference. During this meeting, NEI provided a handout, included in Enclosure 3, proposing revisions to the withdrawal language in NEI 99-02. IPAB staff will review and comment on this proposal for the next ROP meeting.

NEI indicated that NEI 99-02, Revision 6, was published in October 2009. It will be valid for the 4th quarter 2009 PI data collection and subsequent data submittal in January 2010. NRC staff has reviewed Revision 6 and agrees that it provides appropriate current guidance for licensee PI data submittal. Revision 6 is available on the NRC public web site's ROP Program Documents page (<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/oversight/program-documents.html>).

Meeting attendees then discussed PI FAQs, provided by NEI and included in Enclosure 3. FAQ 09-04, regarding Brunswick, was given final approval. A generic FAQ to resolve generic issues relating to the Brunswick FAQ will be provided by NEI at the next meeting. NRC and NEI mutually agreed to withdraw FAQ 09-05 because the question it was posing was not clear. FAQ 09-06 was further discussed at this meeting and will be revised by the industry for further discussion during the next meeting. NEI proposed a few minor changes to FAQ 09-07, which will be reflected in next meeting's FAQ package. This FAQ will be ready to approve at that meeting. FAQ 09-08 documents discussion and the results of research done over the past year on the issue of considering equipment potentially "available" upon completion of maintenance but prior to the performance of the post maintenance test. Since all details of this FAQ had been previously resolved, it was given final approval. FAQ 09-09 was introduced and NRC staff will provide comments for discussion at the next meeting.

The status of draft FAQs are as follows:

TempNo.	PI	Topic	Status	Plant/ Co.
09-04	IE04	Loss of FW after scram	Final Approval	Brunswick
09-05	IE03	Outside Licensee Control	Withdrawn	Generic (ANO)
09-06	EP01	Offsite Call Simulation	Discussed	Duane Arnold
09-07	MSPI	Changes to Planned Unavailability Baseline	Discussed	Generic
09-08	MSPI	PMT Failures when Available but not Operable	Final Approval	Generic
09-09	IE03	Unplanned Power Changes – Switchyard	Introduced	Generic

R. Franovich

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The date for the next ROP monthly public meeting is December 2, 2009, as there is no meeting scheduled for November. The January ROP monthly meeting date is set for January 21, 2010.

Enclosures:

1. Attendance List – October 15, 2009
2. Agenda – October 15, 2009
3. Meeting Handouts

The date for the next ROP monthly public meeting is December 2, 2009, as there is no meeting scheduled for November. The January ROP monthly meeting date is set for January 21, 2010.

Enclosures:

- 4. Attendance List – October 15, 2009
- 5. Agenda – October 15, 2009
- 6. Meeting Handouts

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OFFICE	NRR/DIRS	NRR/DIRS	NRR/DIRS
NAME	NSanfilippo	TKobetz	RFranovich
DATE	11/02/09	11/02/09	11/04/09

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**ATTENDANCE LIST
INDUSTRY/STAFF ROP PUBLIC MEETING
October 15, 2009**

	NAME	AFFILIATION
1	Rani Franovich	NRC
2	Eric Schrader	NRC
3	John Thompson	NRC
4	Nathan Sanfilippo	NRC
5	Duane Kanitz	STARS
6	Roy Linthicum	Exelon
7	Robin Ritzman	FENOC
8	Steven Mays	ERIN Engineering
9	Tom Houghton	NEI
10	Jim Peschel	FPL
11	Taesuk Hwang	NRC (foreign assignee)
12	Ken Heffner	NEI
13	Aron Lewin	NRC
14	Mark Giles	Entergy
15	Jeff Thomas	Duke
16	Bruce Mrowca	ISL
17	Arthur Salomon	NRC
18	Ron Gaston	Exelon
19	Ben Beasley	NRC
20	Tony Zimmerman	Progress
21	Gary Miller	Dominion
22	Paul Schoepf	AEP
23	Glen Masters	INPO
24	Gerald Sowers	APS
25	Justin Wearne	PSEG

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS (ROP) MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

October 15, 2009 - 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM – Church Street – 6-B01

9:00 – 9:05 AM	Introduction and Purpose of Meeting
9:05 – 9:25 PM	Performance Assessment Branch Topics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General topics of interest in the performance assessment area 2. IMC 0305 revision 3. Opportunity for public comment
9:25 – 9:45 AM	Reactor Inspection Branch Topics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General topics of interest in the inspection area 2. PI&R inspection procedure improvements 3. Opportunity for public comment
9:45 – 10:30 AM	Discussion of Performance Indicator Topics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential NEI 99-02 guidance changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSPI EDG component boundary • MSPI EDG failure mode definitions 2. Opportunity for public comment
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 12:00 PM	Discussion of Performance Indicator Topics (continued) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. SSFF guidance clarification 4. Opportunity for public comment
12:00 – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Discussion of Performance Indicator Topics (continued) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. NEI 99-02 guidance regarding withdrawal of FAQs 6. Status of Draft NEI 99-02, Revision 6 7. Opportunity for public comment
1:45 – 3:15 PM	Discussion of Open and New PI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) <p><i>Note: topic may be moved up if meeting is ahead of schedule. The latest draft FAQs are located on the public web at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/draft_faqs.pdf. This list is subject to change the day before the meeting based on availability of new draft FAQs provided by the Nuclear Energy Institute. Public comments will be addressed on FAQs following the discussion.</i></p>
3:15 – 3:30 PM	Future Meeting Dates, Action List Status, Future Agenda Topics