May 22, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: John R. Jolicoeur, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Andrew L. Hon, Project Manager ***/RA/***
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 2, 2012, PUBLIC MEETING WITH APPLICANTS ON TOPICAL REPORTS TOPICS

On May 2, 2012, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of topical report (TR) applicants at NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12089A051). The purpose of the meeting was to inform applicants who submit TRs to the NRC the process improvement steps being taken at NRC as a follow up to last year's meeting (ADAMS Accession No. ML112312267). A list of attendees is enclosed. Members of the public were not in attendance.

After the introduction, the NRC staff presented the information on the steps being taken to revise the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Office Instruction LIC-500, "Topical Reports Process." All of the NRC staff's presentations are available to the public in ADAMS as follow:

- ML12124A089 - NRR Office Instruction LIC-500 Topical Report Process Update Plan
- ML12124A096 - Modified TR Prioritization Scheme Matrix For LIC500R5
- ML12124A099 - Priority Data Prototype

The scope of this meeting was primarily on TRs submitted to the NRR staff seeking formal endorsements via safety evaluations. Other submittals that are outside the scope of this meeting will be addressed separately in appropriate fora.

The first significant improvement is the updated prioritization scheme to be used to manage the growing backlog of open TRs. The current backlog is approximately 60 and is expected to grow due to TR review resource reductions and anticipated new submittals. This updated prioritization scheme is based on NRC staff internal consensus and external stakeholders feedback from the July 28, 2011, public meeting. An additional input from vendor/owners groups (V/OG) on the priority is that TRs driven by new rulemakings should receive the proper level of priority. The NRC staff considers this category as part of the "Emergent NRC Technical Issue" category and other credits can be taken in other categories.

After the discussion on this prioritization methodology, the V/OG agreed to review and assign proposed scores to their current backlog and anticipated submittals. The NRC staff will then compare this result with the priority scores assigned by the NRC staff in conference calls with each V/OG by the end of June to finalize the assigned priority. Low priority or inactive items will be placed in an “inactive list” and their TACs will be closed. This will result in a meaningful backlog list with realistic milestones for high priority TR reviews and avoid charging time/contract fees to those frequently interrupted low priority TR reviews without tangible results.

The second significant improvement is the reinforcement of referencing the NRC staff accepted Approved Version “-A” of the final TR in plant-specific licensing actions. The “-A” is intended to be a compilation of all existing docketed documents related to the TR approval. It should have incorporated the limitations and conditions of the SE without adding un-reviewed new information. It provides the application licensees and NRC licensing action reviewers a complete and self-contained information package to minimize misunderstandings and omissions. Both the V/OG and the NRC staff agreed to submit and review the “-A” in a timely manner to enable the plant licensees to reference it in licensing actions.

The other two improvements to the LIC-500 are interface improvements with the Office of New Reactors and implementing the Plain Language Act to improve the letters to the V/OG.

Both the NRC staff and the V/OG who participated in the meeting agreed this was a productive session to improve the process. Members of the public did not participate in this meeting.

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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DATE	5/14/2012	5/17/2012	5/22/2012	5/22/2012

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PUBLIC MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND APPLICANTS ON TOPICAL REPORTS TOPICS
DATE & TIME: Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Attendees

Name	Organization	Email	Remarks
Andy Hon	NRC/NRR		
JOHN JOLICOEUR	NRC/NRR		
Jim Andrachek	W		
Kris Cummings	Westinghouse		
Mark Stofko	Westinghouse		
Mike Melton	Westinghouse		
Jim Riley	NEI		
ANTHONY MENDIOLA	USNRC		
Sheryl Burrows	NRC/NRO		
Holly Cruz	NRC/NRR/DPR		
Sheldon Stuchell	NRC/NRR		
Russ Wells	AREVA		
EKATERINA LENNING	NRC/NRR/DPR		
David Diamond	BNL		
DADDY SETIYAWAN	BAPETEN		
PATRICK TROY	LOCKHEED MARTIN		
Jim Harrison	GE HITACHI		
Joe Holonich	NRC/NRR		
William Ruland	NRC/DSS		
Stephen Philpott	NRC/NRR		
* Larry Steiner	EPRI		
* Jim Fisicaro	Toshiba		
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* Teleconferencing

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