



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

October 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO: Daniel Merzke, Acting Chief
Reactor Assessment Branch
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: David M. Aird, Reactor Operations Engineer */RA/*
Reactor Assessment Branch
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS
BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

On September 20, 2023, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff hosted a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Task Force executives, other senior industry executives, and various external stakeholders to discuss the staff's progress on initiatives related to the ROP. The topics discussed during this hybrid meeting are described below.

Recommendations to Improve NRC's Generic Issues Program

NRC staff from EMBARK Venture Studio and the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) provided a presentation of an ongoing effort to review and recommend improvements to Management Directive (MD) 6.4, "Generic Issues Program," and the RES Office Instruction TEC-002. Four recommendations for program improvement include: performing an annual evaluation in the assessment stage, using best practices for gathering information, using a team of experts to screen generic issues, and editorial changes to MD 6.4 and TEC-002 which includes enhancing the evaluation of uncertainties and assumptions in risk analyses.

Presentation - Recommendations for the NRC's Generic Issues Program - ML23256A001
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23256A001>

Security/Natural Terrain Credited as Vehicle Barrier System

The NRC staff provided an overview of the regulatory requirements related to the physical barriers needed to satisfy the physical protection program design requirements. Licensees that seek more specific guidance should reference both NUREG/CR-4250, "Vehicle Barriers:

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Emphasis on Natural Features,” and NUREG/CR-6190-V2-R1 “Protection Against Malevolent use of Vehicles at Nuclear Power Plants: Vehicle Barrier System Selection Guidance.”

Presentation - Natural Terrain Credited as Vehicle Barrier System - ML23181A084
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23181A084>

Update on Commercial Grade Dedication and Age-Related Degradation Inspections

NRC staff provided an update on the ongoing commercial grade dedication and age-related degradation inspections. The NRC staff described the number of inspections completed and provided best practices to ensure an efficient inspection. Staff also addressed questions from the nuclear industry regarding implementation of the inspection procedures.

Emergency Response Facilities and Equipment Needed for Emergency Response (ERFER) Performance Indicator Path Forward

On September 1, 2023, the Commission approved the development of a new ERFER performance indicator (PI), and the subsequent retirement of the Alert & Notification System (ANS) PI via SRM SECY-23-0010. The staff informed the ROP Working Group of this SRM and that the staff, and NEI/INPO, are working on an implementation plan which will include piloting the new ERFER-PI prior to implementation.

Update on NEI 99-02 Revision 8

Staff from NEI provided an update on the upcoming revision 8 of NEI 99-02, “Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline,” incorporating approved FAQs since revision 7. NEI indicated that they intend to submit the draft document to the NRC for review in the near term.

Presentation - NEI 99-02 Draft Rev. 8 Update for Sept ROP Public Meeting - ML23258A199
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23258A199>

Enhancing Oversight of Probabilistic Risk Assessment Configuration Control

The NRC staff presented a status update on the Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) Configuration Control (PCC) effort. NRC staff provided the milestones and recommendations for a balanced approach to enhance oversight of PCC, specifically, utilizing an Operating Experience Smart Sample (OpESS) and details on what is the intent of an OpESS. Additionally, NRC staff shared the expected inspections that will most likely use the OpESS and details on the proposed guidance within the OpESS, which is largely administrative in nature and focused on verification of processes to ensure the PRA is maintained to accurately represent the as-built, as-operated plant. Lastly, NRC staff shared plans to perform associated inspector training related to the OpESS and to generate significance and screening criteria for issues identified from the OpESS.

Industry provided several comments related to significance determination and more-than-minor criteria. Industry also had questions related to training and expressed concerns if there is sufficient time to complete the guidance and to accomplish training prior to issuance of the OpESS. Industry questioned if the OpESS should be delayed another year and expressed if there was a need to perform additional tabletops and workshops. Industry also expressed

concern on the workload of Senior Reactor Analysts (SRAs) that will be tasked with providing oversight in this effort.

NRC staff responded that significance determination will largely use current existing guidance with specific PRA related instructions to bridge any gaps in interpretations. NRC staff stated that training would be accomplished during the upcoming resident counterpart meetings along with just-in-time training and other times as necessary. Lastly, SRA staff are members of the working group and would be supplanted by other regional SRAs and HQ staff if workload availability issues arise.

Presentation - Enhancing Oversight of PRA Configuration Control - ML23257A145
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23257A145>

Inspection Procedure 71152, “Problem Identification and Resolution” Revision Update

The NRC staff presented a status of upcoming changes to the Problem Identification and Resolution (PI&R) procedure, IP 71152. This was a follow-up discussion to the information presented at the May 2023 ROP public meeting (ML23136A589). Staff is collecting internal comments and intends to issue the revision in the coming months with an effective date of January 1, 2024. Staff will be available to discuss this topic at future ROP public meetings.

FAQ 23-02 and Discussion of AP1000 White Paper

The NRC staff and industry ROP Task Force agreed to close FAQ 23-02 related to an interpretation of an unplanned scram with complications at Peach Bottom Unit 1 (ML23192A121). A short discussion was held regarding the AP1000 performance indicator with plans to continue the dialogue with the NRC resident inspectors and at a future ROP public meeting.

ROP Whitepaper Modification of the Description of Unplanned Scrams with Complications Performance Indicator to Reflect AP1000 Design - ML23136A607
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23136A607>

The Next ROP Meeting

The next ROP bi-monthly public meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2023.

Communicating with the NRC Staff

At the start of all ROP public meetings, the project manager provides contact information for the public to use to provide their name and affiliation as a participant in the meeting. This contact information is also provided for submitting questions and comments to the NRC technical staff. Please note that any questions and/or comments pertaining to the ROP can be sent to David.Aird@nrc.gov and will be forwarded to the appropriate NRC staff. The “Contact Us about ROP” page on the ROP public website can also be used to submit questions and comments regarding the ROP (<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/oversight/contactus.html>).

Conclusion

At the end of the meeting, NRC and industry management gave closing remarks. The industry representatives expressed appreciation for the open dialogue and willingness of NRC staff to

hear industry views. The NRC management stressed the importance of the NRC being focused on providing reasonable assurance of public health and safety when considering changes to the ROP.

The following link contains the meeting agenda and other information:

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23258A119>

The enclosure provides the attendance list for this meeting.

Enclosure:

As stated

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 - DATED OCTOBER 4, 2023

ADAMS Accession No.: ML23276B397

*** = via email**

OFFICE	NRR/DRO/IRAB	NRR/DRO/IRAB/BC	NRR/DRO/IRAB
NAME	DAird	DMerzke*	DAird
DATE	10/3/2023	10/3/2023	10/4/2023

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

LIST OF ATTENDEES

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

September 20, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Name	Organization¹	Name	Organization
Tim Riti	NEI	David Aird	NRC
David Gudger	Constellation Nuclear	Tania Martinez Navedo	NRC
Tony Brown	NEI	Antonios Zoulis	NRC
Steve Catron	NextEra	Maury Brooks	NRC
Deann Raleigh	Curtiss-Wright	Douglas Bollock	NRC
Justin Wearne	PSEG	Lundy Pressley	NRC
Ryan Joyce	SNL	Sarah Obadina	NRC
Russell Thompson	TVA	Aron Lewin	NRC
Carlos Sisco	Winston & Strawn	Ty Ospino	NRC
Linda Dewhirst	NPPD	David Garmon	NRC
David Young	NEI	Steve Wyman	NRC
Thomas Basso	NEI	Daniel Merzke	NRC
Stephenie Pyle	Entergy	Veronica Fisher	NRC
Mike Montecalvo	TerraPower	Jared Justice	NRC
Nathan Zohner	INPO	Gabe Taylor	NRC
Kim Ellis	INPO	Angela Wu	NRC
Mary Ballengee	INPO	Thomas Weaver	NRC
Steven Dolley	S&P	James Kepley	NRC
Roy Linthicum	Constellation Nuclear	Kenneth Armstrong	NRC
Enrique Meléndez	CSN	Jeff Bream	NRC
Kevin Ellis	Duke Energy	Robert Williams	NRC
Victoria Anderson	NEI	Zack Hollcraft	NRC
Melisa Krick	Talen Energy	Scot Sullivan	NRC
Andrew Zach	EPW	Shawn Lichvar	NRC
Kimberly Hulvey	TVA	Don Johnson	NRC
Cecil Fletcher II	Duke Energy	Jen Whitman	NRC
Charlene Chotalal	Dominion Energy	William Rautzen	NRC
Ian Bitner	Unknown	Andy Rosebrook	NRC
Stephen Meyer	Unknown	Jason Brodlowicz	NRC
Rob Burg	EPM, Inc	Brian Hughes	NRC
Edwin Lyman	UCS	Ronald Cureton	NRC
James Pak	Dominion Energy	Andrew Mihalik	NRC
Anthony Smallwood	NRC	Glenn Dentel	NRC
Niry Simonian	NRC	Justin Hassler	NRC

¹ Unknown organization indicates that the participant's affiliation was not provided by the issuance of this meeting summary.

James Mejia	NRC	Bridget Curran	NRC
Meena Khanna	NRC	Tony Nakanishi	NRC
John ODonnell	NRC	John Hughey	NRC
Keith Boring	NRC	Caty Nolan	NRC
Robert Williams	NRC	Drew Childs	NRC
Nikki Warnek	NRC	Amar Patel	NRC
Harral Logaras	NRC	Robert Fisher	NRC
Billy Dickson	NRC	Hang Vu	NRC
Thomas Hipschman	NRC	Jonathan Fiske	NRC
Jimmy Wong	NRC	Michelle Kichline	NRC
David Kern	NRC	Rob Krsek	NRC
Reinaldo Rodriguez	NRC	Jonathan Lizardi- Barreto	NRC
Alex Garmoe	NRC	Naeem Iqbal	NRC
Kenneth Kolaczyk	NRC	Cheryl Khan	NRC
Shiattin Makor	NRC	Leslie Fields	NRC
Charles Moulton	NRC	Abiola Oshunleti	NRC
David Hills	NRC	Paul Rades	NRC
Avinash Jaigobind	NRC		