



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

April 9, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: Philip McKenna, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Brian Benney, Reactor Operations Engineer *Brian Benney*
Generic Communications and Operating Experience Branch
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS
BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON MARCH 26, 2025

On March 26, 2025, 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, senior industry executives, and external stakeholders to discuss the staff's progress on initiatives related to the ROP. The meeting notice and agenda are located at [ML25084A207](#).

ADVANCE Act Discussion

Section 507 of the Act requires the NRC to develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that identifies specific improvements to the nuclear reactor and materials oversight and inspection programs carried out pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) that the Commission may implement to maximize the efficiency of such programs through, where appropriate, the use of risk-informed, performance-based procedures, expanded incorporation of information technologies, and staff training. Key language in Section 507 includes optimizing resource use, revising inspection planning, evaluating the cross-cutting issues program, and aligning resource allocation with safety significance and licensee performance.

During the meeting, the NRC shared several updates, including the timeline for submitting the Section 507 report to Congress, plans for training at the regional inspector counterparts meeting in June focused on implementation activities scheduled for July, and the potential for public workshops to support the review and development of revised ROP performance indicators (PIs).

Very Low Safety Significance Issue Resolution

The staff presented an overview of upcoming changes to the Very Low Safety Significance Issue Resolution (VLSSIR) process (slides: ADAMS [ML25083A218](#)). As one of a number of activities the agency is undertaking to enhance efficiencies per the ADVANCE Act, the staff is revising the applicability of the VLSSIR process. When initially implemented several years ago

the process was limited to questions on issues involving the licensing basis that, if resolved, would be of very low safety significance and would take undue resources to pursue. The process was later revised to include traditional enforcement issues and nuclear materials issues. This latest revision will allow the process to be available for any question involving ambiguity with the licensing basis, design basis, or applicability of regulatory requirements for which the issue would be of very low safety significance and the agency does not wish to expend the resources necessary to disposition the issue. VLSSIR continues to not be applicable for known findings or violations or for any issue that may be of greater-than-Green or more than Severity Level IV significance. Staff will be collecting and resolving internal comments on Manual Chapter revisions and will issue updated Manual Chapters to implement this VLSSIR revision later this spring.

Advanced Reactor Oversight Process Early Development

NRR Division of Reactor Oversight (DRO) briefed on the initial development of strategies and guidance for oversight for new reactors in the operating phase (AROP), which would include advanced, small modular and micro reactors. NRR's Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-power Production and Utilization Facilities (DANU) has the lead for developing the construction oversight for new reactors (ARCOP) and provided a paper to the Commission in 2023 on that topic;¹ there will be more updates to come as they develop that process. ADVANCE Act Section 208(a)(1) requires the Commission to develop risk-informed and performance-based strategies and guidance for oversight and inspections of micro reactors within 18 months of the enactment of the Act. The staff will submit a paper to the Commission with a deadline of January 2026 that will address this tasking, as well as AROP for all new fission reactor designs.

The staff discussed previous Commission direction from the development of the ROP for the AP1000s, the Advanced Reactor Policy Statement, the ARCOP and CROP development, and external stakeholder input. Specifically, the staff highlight previous Commission direction for oversight for the Generation III+ reactors in SRM-SECY-10-012 and SRM-SECY-13-0137.² The staff discussed previous external stakeholder input such as the NEI rapid deployment paper,³ specifically Appendix 23 on NRC Oversight and Inspections. In this phase, the staff does not intend to conduct extensive stakeholder engagement beyond regular updates, mostly likely during the bimonthly ROP meetings. However, it will consider any additional papers or updates to the NEI suggestions in the rapid deployment paper or from other stakeholders.

FAQ 25-01

NEI provided a presentation on FAQ 25-01 for an issue at Turkey Point. The slides for the industry presentation can be found at [ML25084A047](#). NRC staff acknowledged receipt of the FAQ.

The Next ROP Meeting

The next ROP bi-monthly public meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2025.

¹ SECY-23-0048, "Vision for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advanced Reactor Construction Oversight Program," June 6, 2023, ML23061A086.

² SRM-SECY-13-0137, "Recommendations for Risk-Informing the Reactor Oversight Process for New Reactors," June 30, 2014, ML14181B398.

³ Nuclear Energy Institute, NEI Proposal Paper "Regulations of Rapid High-Volume Deployable Reactors in Remote Applications (RHRA) and Other Advanced Reactors," July 31, 2024, ML24213A337.

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 staff. Please note that any questions and/or comments pertaining to the ROP can be sent to Mr. Brian Benney at Brian.Benney@nrc.gov. 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

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 enclosure provides the attendance list for this meeting.

Enclosure:

As stated

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 26, 2025 - DATED APRIL 9, 2025

ADAMS Accession No.: ML25087A007

***via email**

OFFICE	NRR/DRO/IOEB/BC	NRR/DRO/IRAB/BC	NRR/DRO/DD
NAME	BBenney	DAird	PMcKenna
DATE	4/7/2025	4/7/2025	4/9/2025

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

LIST OF ATTENDEES

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

January 29, 2025 - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

NAME	Organization ⁴
Aaron McCraw	NRC
Adam Craig	NRC
AJ Scheuermann	NRC
Alex Garmoe	NRC
Alex Prada	NRC
Amanda Leatherman	NRC
Amanda Spalding	Unknown
Amber Donley	NRC
Amy Chamberlain	Southern Nuclear
Andrew Mauer	NEI
Arthur Knotts	NRC
Atif Shaikh	NRC
Bill Rautzen	NRC
Brett Titus	NEI
Brian Benney	NRC
Brian Stander	Unknown
Bruce Greer	Unknown
Carlos Sisco	Winston and Strawn
Carrie Seipp	Xcel Energy
Cecil Fletcher II	Duke Energy
Cesare Frepoli	Terra Innovatum
Charles Murray	NRC
Cori Schoultz	NEXT Lab
Dan Geary	NRC
Dave Garmon	NRC
David Aird	NRC
David Garmon	NRC
Deann Raleigh	Curtiss-Wright
Desiree Davis	NRC
Don Wong	NRC
Douglas Bollock	NRC
Ed Miller	NRC
Edwin Lyman	UCS

⁴ Unknown organization indicates that the participant's affiliation was not provided by the issuance of this meeting summary.

Elias Haddad	NRC
Eric Bowman	NRC
Eric Brothman	NRC
Eric Frank	Unknown
Ernie Kee	Unknown
Everett Perkins	Unknown
Farshid Shahrokhi	Framatome
Glenn Dentel	NRC
Ian Bitner	Unknown
Jack Bell	NRC
Jake Davis	NRC
James Drake	NRC
James Pak	Services - 6
James Slider	NEI
Jason Morgan	NRC
Jazmin Flores	NRC
Jeff Bream	NRC
Jeffery Wood	NRC
Jereme Greenblott	Constellation Nuclear
Jeremiah Rey	NRC
Jill Monohan	Unknown
John Butler	NEI
John Giddens	Entergy
John Jarrell	Certrec
John McKirgan	NRC
Jon Facemire	NEI
Jonathan Rivera	NRC
Joseph Cunningham	NRC
Joy Jiang	The Breakthrough Institute
Julianne Mccallum	Unknown
Julio Lara	NRC
Justin Bouknight	VC Summer
Justin Knowles	Constellation Nuclear
Justin Werne	PSEG
Kenneth Mack	NextEra
Kevin Rowe	NEI, Turkey Point
Kimberly Dawn	Unknown
Les Foyto	Unknown
Leslie Tapia Andrade	NRC
Lucieann Vechioli Feliciano	NRC
Luis Betancourt	NRC

Luke Greene	TVA
Lundy Pressley	NRC
Maribel Valdez	NextEra
Mario Fernandez	NRC
Marty Murphy	Xcel Energy
Matt Griffin	Antares Industries
Michael Ellett	Kairos
Michael Keller	Unknown
Michelle Thomas	Certrec
Mike King	NRC
Mike Montecalvo	TerraPower
Mike Stephens	Unknown
Mimi King-Patterson	TVA
Musab AbuHamdan	NRC
Nick Melly	NRC
Nicole Good	STARS Alliance
Odunayo Ayegbusi	NRC
Patrick Boyle	NRC
Paul Rades	NRC
Peter Lom	NRC
Lisa Peterson	Unknown
Phil Lashley	Vistra Corp
Phil Mckenna	NRC
Rachel Qian	NRC
Rebecca Sigmon	NRC
Ricardo Medina	Unknown
Rob Burg	EPM, Inc.
Rob Krsek	NRC
Robert Lanza	Unknown
Robert Williams	NRC
Robin Ritzman	Curtiss-Wright
Robyn Johnson	Unknown
Rodney Fanner	NRC
Ronald Cureton	NRC
Roy Linthicum	Constellation Nuclear
Russell Felts	NRC
Russell Thompson	TVA
Sam Sayampanathan	NRC
Sarah Gibboney	Unknown
Sebastien Bruneau	NRC
SHAHROKHI Farshid	FRA-CORP

Shane Gatter	Unknown
Shane Sandal	NRC
Tim Marshall	NRC
Tim Riti	NEI
Timothy Eichler	NRC
Trace Orf	Unknown
Treyvon Griffin	NRC
Victor Lee	NRC
Victoria Anderson	NEI
Zack Hollcraft	NRC