

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

January 25, 2023

MEMORANDUM TO: Philip J. McKenna, 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 JANUARY 18, 2023

On January 18, 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.

#### **Status of ROP Enhancement Activities**

The NRC staff provided an update of the status of the ROP Enhancement Commission SECY papers schedule (ADAMS Accession No. ML22025A132). At the November 2022 ROP public meeting it was discussed that the Problem Identification and Resolution (PI&R) SECY paper, the 4th Quarter Performance Indicator (PI) Treatment and Greater-Than-Green PI Treatment SECY paper, and the Emergency Planning (EP) Significance Determination Process revision SECY paper were all issued in September 2022. The Commission is actively reviewing and voting on these papers. The White/Yellow findings description revision in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0609 is ready to be issued but will wait until a corresponding change to the Enforcement Policy is sent to the Commission by a SECY paper. This SECY paper is expected to be issued in January 2023.

#### Status of SECY-22-0089 and Upcoming SECY to Address FAQ 22-01

The NRC staff provided the status of SECY-22-0089, "Recommendation for Enhancing the Emergency Preparedness Significance Determination Process for the Reactor Oversight Process" which is currently under review by the Commission. The proposed SECY for the

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ANS/ERFER–PI per ROP FAQ 22-01 is under NRC management review. The staff also encouraged the ROP Task Force to submit, through the ROP public meetings, any suggestions for EP ROP procedural changes as SECY-22-0089 will lead to a cascade of EP ROP procedural changes, if approved.

## Enforcement Policy for Dispositioning 10 CFR Part 37 Violations with Respect to Large Components or Robust Structures

The NRC staff provided an overview of the proposed "Interim Enforcement Policy for Dispositioning 10 CFR Part 37 Violations with Respect to Large Components or Robust Structures Containing Category 1 or Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material at Power Reactor Facilities Licensed under 10 CFR Part 50 and 10 CFR Part 52." The purpose of this interim enforcement policy (IEP) is to allow the staff to continue to exercise enforcement discretion for dispositioning violations associated with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 37, "Physical Protection of Category 1 and Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material," with respect to large components containing category 1 or category 2 quantities of radioactive material, or category 1 and category 2 quantities of radioactive material stored in robust structures at power reactor facilities licensed under 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," or 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," until the issue is dispositioned through rulemaking or other regulatory action. This IEP is expected to be sent to the Commission by a SECY paper in February 2023, seeking Commission approval.

#### **Engineering Inspections Update**

NRC staff provided updates on two new engineering inspections, Commercial Grade Dedication (CGD) and Age-Related Degradation (ARD) inspections. Staff shared that training of the NRC inspection staff was completed for the CGD inspections, that the first CGD inspections were about to start at the end of January 2023 and that there is a revision to the CGD inspection procedure coming out shortly that updates the references in the procedure. Staff also shared that the ARD inspection procedure was completed in December of 2022 (ML22210A107), and that the first ARD inspections would be implemented after July 2023 to give the NRC time to train inspectors on ARD inspection implementation and industry time to prepare for the inspections. Staff shared that for each inspection, technical and programmatic points of contact were to be identified and that following each site inspection completion that the NRC staff would hold internal review panels to ensure consistency in inspection implementation and finding screenings.

Industry asked if there were any insights from the NRC as inspection staff prepared for the first CGD inspections, which the staff responded that there were no specific insights, only that open and early communication between the NRC inspectors and the individual licensees before the inspection start is extremely important to a smooth implementation of the inspection. Industry also asked if there will be public meetings regarding the ARD inspections and they also shared concerns that the ARD inspection may overlap the aging-management program (AMP) inspections that may be occurring at some licensees around the time of the ARD inspections. The NRC staff committed to having public meetings starting in late-March or April of 2023 to discuss specifics of the ARD inspections, similar to what the NRC staff had done with the CGD inspections. The NRC staff also responded that though there may be some slight overlap in possible ARD samples with AMP inspections, the inspections are significantly different with in objectives and goals.

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Presentation: Engineering Inspections Update - ML23005A282 https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23005A282

#### **Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection Discussion**

NEI provided its perspective in support of the original PI&R recommendations from the SECY-19-0067 paper. The NRC staff discussed the bases for their recommendations to the Commission in SECY-22-0087, "Recommendation for Problem Identification and Resolution Team Inspection Frequency" for maintaining the biennial frequency of PI&R inspections and provided an overview of the various objectives the PI&R inspection program.

Presentation: PI&R Inspection Discussion - ML23013A078 <a href="https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23013A078">https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23013A078</a>

#### **Proposed Industry FAQs**

Industry representatives presented FAQ 23-01 related to a DC Cook Unit 1 unplanned scram exemption request. The FAQ was submitted to request a one-time exemption from the guidance related to "Unplanned Scrams Per 7,000 Critical Hours" for DC Cook. The request made is due to the unique circumstances of the event, which led operators to shut down the reactor by performing a manual reactor trip following a manual trip of the main turbine due to high vibrations. The high vibrations were encountered while attempting to return the unit to service following substantial maintenance on the high-pressure turbine. NRC staff acknowledged receipt of FAQ 23-01 and have started the technical review.

During the meeting, industry representatives provided the following as background information for the topic:

FAQ 23-01: DC Cook Unit 1 Unplanned Scram Exemption Request (ML23018A204)

Industry representatives also discussed an upcoming white paper on proposed Vogtle 3 performance indicator exemptions.

#### **The Next ROP Meeting**

The next ROP bi-monthly public meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 5, 2023. Tentative dates for the rest of calendar year are indicated below:

- Thursday, May 18, 2023
- Wednesday, July 19, 2023
- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Thursday, 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 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 <a href="mailto:David.Aird@nrc.gov">David.Aird@nrc.gov</a>. Questions and/or comments will be forward to the appropriate NRC staff. The staff also

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mentioned the role out of the "Contact Us about ROP" page on the ROP website, which 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: <a href="https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23006A042">https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23006A042</a>

The enclosure provides the attendance list for this meeting.

Enclosure: As stated P. McKenna - 5 -

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2023 - DATED JANUARY 25, 2023

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML23024A166 \* = via email

| OFFICE | NRR/DRO/IRAB | NRR/DRO/IRAB/BC | NRR/DRO/IRAB |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| NAME   | DAird        | PMcKenna*       | DAird        |
| DATE   | 1/24/2023    | 1/25/2023       | 1/25/2023    |

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#### **LIST OF ATTENDEES**

#### REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS BI-MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

### January 18, 2023, 9:00 AM to 10:45 AM

| Name                | Organization <sup>1</sup> | Name              | Organization |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Tim Riti            | NEI                       | David Aird        | NRC          |
| Tony Brown          | NEI                       | Mike King         | NRC          |
| Steve Catron        | NextEra                   | Phil McKenna      | NRC          |
| Brian McCabe        | NEI                       | Julio Lara        | NRC          |
| Brett Titus         | NEI                       | Don Johnson       | NRC          |
| Darlene Delk        | TVA                       | Tony Nakanishi    | NRC          |
| Wendy Brost         | Unknown                   | Nikki Warnek      | NRC          |
| Kari Osborne        | Unknown                   | Russell Felts     | NRC          |
| Russell Thompson    | TVA                       | Billy Gleaves     | NRC          |
| Thomas Stafford     | Unknown                   | Brian Benney      | NRC          |
| Edwin Lyman         | UCS                       | Christopher Tyree | NRC          |
| Robin Ritzman       | Curtiss-Wright            | Dan Merzke        | NRC          |
| Larry Nicholson     | Certrec                   | Tom Eck           | NRC          |
| David Gudger        | Constellation Nuclear     | Chris Cauffman    | NRC          |
| Phil Couture        | Entergy                   | David Furst       | NRC          |
| Eugene Cawley       | Unknown                   | Stephanie Liska   | NRC          |
| Rob Burg            | EPM, Inc.                 | John Hanna        | NRC          |
| Micheal Smith       | NEI                       | Angie Buford      | NRC          |
| James Pak           | Dominion Energy           | William Rautzen   | NRC          |
| Marty Murphy        | Xcel Energy               | Brian Hughes      | NRC          |
| Andrew Mauer        | NEI                       | Stephen Campbell  | NRC          |
| Charlene Chotalal   | Dominion Energy           | David Garmon      | NRC          |
| Deann Raleigh       | Curtis Wright             | Tom Hipschman     | NRC          |
| Andrew Zach         | EPW                       | Ronald Cureton    | NRC          |
| Steve Mitchell      | AEP                       | Avinash Jaigobind | NRC          |
| Christian Williams  | Constellation Nuclear     | Ekaterina Lenning | NRC          |
| Stephen Yodersmith  | Unknown                   | Julie Winslow     | NRC          |
| Roy Linthicum       | Constellation Nuclear     | Jeff Bream        | NRC          |
| James Orr           | Constellation Nuclear     | Charity Pantalo   | NRC          |
| Michael Scarpello   | AEP                       | Bernadette Baca   | NRC          |
| Helen Levendosky    | AEP                       | Robert Fisher     | NRC          |
| Kenneth Mack        | NextEra                   | Amar Patel        | NRC          |
| Mimi King-Patterson | TVA                       | Rob Krsek         | NRC          |
| Scott Clausen       | Unknown                   | David Kern        | NRC          |
| Carrie Seipp        | Xcel Energy               | Shakur Walker     | NRC          |
| Linda Dewhirst      | NPPD                      | Jeff Hodge        | NRC          |
| Lloyd Generette     | Unknown                   | John Hughey       | NRC          |
| Drew Richards       | STP                       | Bradley Davis     | NRC          |

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

| Name           | Organization <sup>1</sup> | Name              | Organization |
|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Bob Kalinowski | AEP                       | Edward Robinson   | NRC          |
| Carlos Sisco   | Winston & Strawn          | Manuel Crespo     | NRC          |
| Ken Heffner    | Unaffiliated/Public       | Ray Kellar        | NRC          |
| David Young    | NEI                       | Christian Henckel | NRC          |
| Thomas Basso   | NEI                       | Charles Murray    | NRC          |
|                |                           | Virgel Furr       | NRC          |
|                |                           | Nicole Fields     | NRC          |
|                |                           | Doug Bollock      | NRC          |
|                |                           | Mario Fernandez   | NRC          |
|                |                           | Eric Bowman       | NRC          |
|                |                           | Jeremiah Rey      | NRC          |
|                |                           | Anthony Masters   | NRC          |
|                |                           | Steven Garry      | NRC          |
|                |                           | Michele Kichline  | NRC          |
|                |                           | Sam Graves        | NRC          |
|                |                           | Phyllis Clark     | NRC          |