

December 3, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Scott C. Sloan, Chief
Operator Licensing and Training Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations

FROM: Jacob W. Dolecki, Reactor Engineer */RA/*
Operator Licensing and Training Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2015, PUBLIC MEETING
WITH NEI LICENSED OPERATOR FOCUS GROUP

On November 10, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Licensed Operator Focus Group to discuss the NRC requalification written examination quality grading process as it related to aspects of direct look-up (DLU) questions and level of difficulty (LOD).

The Category 2 public meeting was noticed on October 29, 2015. The notice is available electronically at the NRC's Public Meeting Schedule website at <http://meetings.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20151624> or in the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML15302A510. Meeting participants included NRC staff and contractors, members of the power reactor licensee community, and representatives from the NEI.

This meeting was held with the intention to promote efficiency, effectiveness, and open communications with regard to licensed operator requalification written examination quality standards. The discussions addressed a variety of issues, including the definition of DLU and how that definition potentially affects requalification examination inspections; the ambiguity associated with determining LOD in examination questions; a Vogtle finding as a result of a NRC Inspection Procedure 71111.11, "Licensed Operator Requalification and Licensed Operator Performance,"; and potential changes to guidelines within the Operator Licensing program. Representatives of the NRC and the industry agreed that this meeting was useful for the exchange of information and agreed that some clarification was made.

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Discussion Summary

CONTACT: Jacob Dolecki, NRR/DIRS/IOLB
(301) 415-2947

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML15317A185

OFFICE	NRR/DIRS/IOLB	NRR/DIRS/IOLB	NRR/DIRS/IOLB
NAME	JDolecki	SSloan	JDolecki
DATE	11/16/15	12/3/15	12/3/15

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

List of Attendees – Nuclear Regulatory Commission / Nuclear Energy Institute Licensed
Operator Focus Group / Power Reactor Licensee Community
November 10, 2015

Scott Sloan	NRC
Tim Kolb	NRC
Theresa Buchanan	NRC
John Munro	NRC
David Muller	NRC
Jacob Dolecki	NRC
Eric Cushing	NRC
Hironori (Pete) Peterson	NRC
Don Jackson	NRC
Gene Guthrie	NRC
Bruno Caballero	NRC
Mark Bates	NRC
Matt Emrich	NRC
Vince Gaddy	NRC
Bruce Montgomery	NEI
Gregg Ludlam	Exelon Corp.
Fred Bruns	Exelon Corp.
Bruce Hennigan	Exelon Corp.
Shaun Batts	Exelon Corp.
Chuck Sizemore	NextEra Corp
Travis Ouret	NextEra Corp
Randall Amundson	NextEra Corp.
Sean Wylie	NextEra Corp.
Mark Otten	Union Electric Co.
Russell Joplin	TVA Corp.
Roger Jones	Entergy Corp.
James Knapp	Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
Corry Craine	Southern Nuclear
Trevor O. McCraw	Southern Nuclear
Andy Perkins	Southern Nuclear
Ron Kelly	Southern Nuclear
Gary Ohmstede	Southern Nuclear
Tony Roberts	DTE Electric Co.
Jana Bergman	Curtis-Wright

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA FOR THE CATEGORY 2 MEETING WITH THE
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE LICENSED OPERATOR FOCUS GROUP

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
01:30 PM to 02:30 PM, Eastern Time

Teleconference

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
1:30 p.m.	Introductions and Opening Remarks	NRC/NEI
1:45 p.m.	Discussion related to determining requalification written examination quality	NRC/NEI
2:15 p.m.	Public comments	Public
2:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Requalification Examination Quality Standards

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Licensed Operator Focus Group (LOFG) discussed with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff their concerns regarding use of direct look-up (DLU) questions in open-reference written examinations for individuals taking facility-administered requalification examinations (as discussed in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Section ES-602). In particular, the NEI LOFG stated that there appears to be some ambiguity associated with what constitutes a satisfactory DLU question and stated the definition affects requalification examination quality and the content of the requalification exam bank. In addition, NEI LOFG stated there is also ambiguity associated with determining the level of difficulty (LOD) of a particular examination question. NEI LOFG asked NRC staff to clarify both items.

NRC staff acknowledged the NEI LOFG's concerns but, at this time, although particular avenues were discussed, the staff had no specific recommendations for improvements related to the existing NUREG-1021 and ACAD 07-001 guidance for either DLU or LOD questions. In addition, the staff stated that no interim, new, or revised guidance has been provided on how to assess DLU questions. NRC staff stated that it is unwise to revise the existing Inspection Procedure (IP) 71111.11, "Licensed Operator Requalification Program and Licensed Operator Performance," or NUREG-1021 guidance solely based on the recent requalification examination inspection findings at one facility.

The staff and the NEI LOFG were in agreement that questions should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether a question is in whole or in part a DLU question or the question's LOD was too high or low. As such, the nuclear industry should continue to follow all related guidance currently found in NUREG-1021 and ACAD 07-001. However, the staff further informed the NEI LOFG that the NRC will continue to look into these issues and determine whether any changes to NUREG-1021 or IP 71111.11 are deemed necessary.

The NRC staff and NEI LOFG discussed these topics being a potential topic at next year's (2016) NEI/NRC National Operator Licensing Workshop.