

March 29, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Loren R. Plisco, Chairman **/RA/ John Monninger for**
Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION PANEL
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26-27, 2001

The Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP) met for its fourth meeting on February 26-27, 2001, at the NRC Headquarters facility in Rockville, MD. The IIEP was formed in response to Commission direction in the Staff Requirements Memorandum from SECY-00-049, "Results of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process Pilot Program." The IIEP functions as a cross-disciplinary oversight group to independently monitor and evaluate the results of the first year of initial implementation of the ROP. The meeting was open to the public and was transcribed. A copy of the meeting agenda is provided as Attachment 1. The list of attendees for each day of the meeting is provided as Attachments 2 and 3. All IIEP panel members attended both days of the meeting, with the exception of Mr. Steve Reynolds representing the NRC Region III Office. Mr. Reynolds had previously informed the panel of his unavailability to attend this scheduled meeting. In addition to the panel members, approximately 8 NRC staff and 6 external stakeholders attended each day of the meeting.

For background information, the following documents were provided to the panel members and public in attendance:

- January 22-23, 2001, IIEP meeting summary (ADAMS ML0105301040).
- "Initial SDP Determinations Downgraded in Significance" prepared by the NRC staff in response to questions raised by the IIEP at the January 2001 meeting (Attachment 4 - ADAMS ML010810189).
- "Nuclear Plant Risk Studies - Failing the Grade," August 2000, by David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists. This report was provided to the panel by Ray Shadis of the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution in response to issues raised at the January 2001 meeting regarding the quality of probabilistic risk assessment studies (Attachment 5 - ADAMS ML010810228).

The meeting focused on the following two areas: (1) continued initial prioritization of issues identified through the IIEP, and (2) identification of additional issues, both positive and negative, associated with the ROP from multiple sources including the Union of Concerned Scientists, Nuclear Energy Institute, State of Pennsylvania, NRC's Office of Public Affairs, and McGraw Hill.

On the first day of the meeting, David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists briefed the panel on issues, both positive and negative, that they have identified with the ROP. A copy of his briefing slides is provided as Attachment 6 (ADAMS ML010810219). Following Mr. Lochbaum, Steve Floyd of the Nuclear Energy Institute briefed the panel on trends and observations they have identified with inspection findings and performance indicators through the 4th quarter of 2000. A copy of his briefing slides is provided as Attachment 7 (ADAMS ML010810258). Subsequently, Rich Janati of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection briefed the panel of their views of whether the ROP is meeting the agency's stated goals, along with providing examples of both strengths and weaknesses associated with the process. A copy of his remarks is provided as Attachment 8 (ADAMS ML010810236).

On the second day of the meeting, the IIEP heard from a panel of individuals who are associated with, or routinely interface with the news media. These individuals included Victor Drick's of the NRC's Office of Public Affairs, Jenny Weil of McGraw Hill's Inside NRC, and Steve Kerekes of NEI's Media Relations Office. The IIEP was interested in the views of these individuals with respect to the success of NRC's efforts to provide understandable and easily available information to the public on the ROP and nuclear power plant performance. A copy of the remarks provided by Mr. Drick's is provided as Attachment 9 (ADAMS ML010810192).

Time was allotted during the meeting for others members of the public to address the panel. Accordingly, Judith Johnsrud from State College, Pennsylvania, representing the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and the Sierra Club was in attendance at the meeting and provided some remarks to the panel. Ms. Johnsrud is also on the State of Pennsylvania's Advisory Committee on Low Level Radioactive Waste. Her remarks focused of the relationship between the NRC and the public in the vicinity of nuclear facilities and the use of risk analysis in regulatory decision-making.

The IIEP will consider the issues presented by these various stakeholders in a similar manner as those presented by other stakeholders in previous meetings. That is to say, the panel will continue to build upon and refine its "table of issues" and prioritize them according to their established criteria. With respect to the table of issues, the panel completed its initial prioritization of issues and rated them according to which of the various ROP goals are impacted by the issue. The table of issues is provided as Attachment 10 (ADAMS ML010880340).

As previously stated, the two day IIEP meeting was transcribed and a copy of the transcripts is provided as Attachments 11 (ADAMS ML010870653) and 12 (ADAMS ML010870657).

The panel scheduled their fifth meeting for April 2-3, 2001 in Rockville, Maryland. The panel was interested in hearing presentations on (1) issues and concerns by additional public interest groups such as Public Citizen, and any representatives of Congressional staff, and (2) the status of the ROP Self-Assessment Program and results from the Lessons-Learned Workshops from the NRC staff. The panel tentatively scheduled their sixth meeting for April 25, 2001.

Attachments:

- 1 - Agenda for February 26-27, 2001
- 2 - Attendees on February 26, 2001
- 3 - Attendees on February 27, 2001
- 4 - Initial SDP Determinations Downgraded in Significance by the NRC Staff (ADAMS ML010810189)
- 5 - Nuclear Plant Risk Studies - Failing the Grade by the Union of Concerned Scientists (ADAMS ML010810228)
- 6 - Union of Concerned Scientists Slides (ADAMS ML010810219)
- 7 - Nuclear Energy Institute Slides (ADAMS ML010810258)
- 8 - Pennsylvania Dept of Environmental Protection Comments (ADAMS ML010810236)
- 9 - NRC Office of Public Affairs Feedback (ADAMS ML010810192)
- 10 - Summary Table of IIEP Issues (ADAMS ML010880340)
- 11 - Transcript from February 26, 2001 (ADAMS ML010870653)
- 12 - Transcript from February 27, 2001 (ADAMS ML010870657)

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DISTRIBUTION:

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OFC:	NRR/ADIP		Region II			
NAME:	JMonninger		LPlisco			
DATE:	03/28/01		03/29/01			

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REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION PANEL MEETING

Date & Time:

Monday, February 26, 2001

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Location:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

11545 Rockville Pike

Rockville, MD 20852

Room: TWFN-2B3

301-415-3495

Agenda:

Monday, February 26, 2001	
8:00-8:30	- Introduction / Meeting Objectives and Goals - Review of Meeting Minutes and Items from January 22-23, 2001 Meeting
8:30-12:00	Initial Prioritization of Issues Identified Through the Panel
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-5:00	Stakeholder Presentations: - Union of Concerned Scientist Dave Lochbaum - Nuclear Energy Institute Steve Floyd - PA Department of Environmental Protection Rich Janati
5:00	Adjourn

Tuesday, February 27, 2001	
8:00-8:30	- Recap of Previous Day's Meeting - Meeting Objectives and Goals
8:30-12:00	Stakeholder Presentations: - NRC Public Affairs Office Victor Dricks - McGraw Hill's Inside NRC Jenny Weil - NEI Public Affairs Office Steve Kerekes
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-3:00	Initial Prioritization of Issues Identified Through the Panel (continued)
3:00-4:00	Agenda Planning Session
4:00-5:00	Public Comments/General Discussion
5:00	Adjourn

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PANEL
MEETING ATTENDEES

Monday, February 26, 2001

IIEP MEMBERS

Randy Blough
Bill Borchardt
Ken Brockman
Mary Ferdig
Steve Floyd
Dave Garchow
Richard Hill
Rod Krich
Robert Laurie
Jim Moorman
Loren Plisco
Ed Scherer
Jim Setser
Ray Shadis
Jim Trapp

AFFILIATION

NRC/Region I
NRC/OE
NRC/Region IV
Ferdig, Inc. & Benedictine University
Nuclear Energy Institute
PSEG Nuclear
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Exelon Corporation
California Energy Commission
NRC/Region IV
NRC/Region II
Southern California Edison
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution
NRC/Region I

OTHER ATTENDEES

Tom Boyce
Chip Cameron
Roger Huston
Rich Janati
Judith Johnsrud
Mike Johnson
Dave Lochbaum
John Monninger
Scott Morris
Chris Nolan
Deann Raleigh
August Spector
John Thompson
Susan Yim

AFFILIATION

NRC/NRR
NRC/OGC
Licensing Support Services
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
ECNP/Sierra Club
NRC/NRR
Union of Concerned Scientists
NRC/NRR
NRC/EDO
NRC/OE
LIS, Scientech
NRC/NRR
NRC/NRR
Winston & Strawn

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PANEL
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AFFILIATION

NRC/Region I
NRC/OE
NRC/Region IV
Ferdig, Inc. & Benedictine University
Nuclear Energy Institute
PSEG Nuclear
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Exelon Corporation
California Energy Commission
NRC/Region IV
NRC/Region II
Southern California Edison
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution
NRC/Region I

OTHER ATTENDEES

Bill Dean
Chip Cameron
Victor Dricks
Roger Huston
Steve Kerekes
Alan Madison
John Monninger
Scott Morris
Chris Nolan
Deann Raleigh
August Spector
Jenny Weil
Susan Yim

AFFILIATION

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