

**UTILITY RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY BOARD OF OHIO
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2007**

Ms. Nancy Dragani, Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency called to order the October 9, 2007 meeting of the Utility Radiological Safety Board of Ohio at 1:30 p.m.

The first order of business was roll call, taken by Ramona Hauenstein.

I. ROLL CALL

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	MS. NANCY DRAGANI
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	MR. ROBERT OWEN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	MR. ANTHONY MITCHELL
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	MR. SHAWN SMITH
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	MR. JIM MEHL
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	MR. DEAN JAGGER

A quorum was declared.

II. READING OF THE JULY 9, 2007 MINUTES (ADOPTED)

The Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes. Ms. Dragani asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes. Ms. Dragani asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Anthony Mitchell of the Department of Agriculture moved to adopt the minutes and Mr. Robert Owen seconded. The motion was carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

The first item on the agenda was the status of the Working Group Initiatives. Ms. Carol O'Claire reported on the status of the initiatives that Ohio EMA has the lead.

In preparation for the June 24, 2008 Beaver Valley partial participation exercise, a parameters meeting was held at the Beaver Valley Power Station on September 13, 2007 to develop the exercise scenario. The dry run will be June 3, 2008.

The Perry full participation exercise will be held October 7. The date for the dry run has not been set.

The matrix for the Reactor Oversight Program is included in the packet. Ms. O'Claire reminded the Board that the information is two (2) quarters behind.

The IZRRAG will meet on November 8, 2007 for a training session and December 17, 2007 for a table top exercise. The Ingestion Zone Recovery/Reentry Advisory (IZRRAG) procedures, the advisories, Field Team Center (FTC) procedures will be reviewed and revised as the result of these sessions.

Plant Oversight: Davis-Besse is in the 4th year of a 5 year cycle of independent studies.

On August 15, 2007 the NRC issued a Confirmatory Order to FENOC to formalize commitments made following the NRC Demand for Information (DFI) of May 14, 2007. The DFI was regarding the Exponent Report and subsequent related reports referencing the Davis-Besse head degradation.

The “White” Finding under Emergency Preparedness given to Beaver Valley in 2006 has been closed.

Perry remains in Column 2 of the Reactor Oversight Program.

New Technology: EMA is in the process of purchasing Plume Tracker. Pennsylvania already has this software. This is a training tool. The system consists of the software, Teletrix hardware, GPS units and laptops. A prepared scenario is used to send radio signals to the instruments for an actual reading. The state would like to test it during the Beaver Valley Dry Run.

We still have not received any guidance as to how to make sure the Radiological Plan NIMS compliant; however, changes continue to be made toward that purpose.

The Comprehensive Reviews have been completed for all three (3) plants; however, no reports have been received by the plants or the State.

The Alert Notification Self-Assessment for Davis-Besse was held. Mr. Mike White, the Radiological Analyst from the Davis-Besse area participated.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant Threat Based Drill was conducted September 12.

Mr. Steve Helmer reported for Department of Health on the initiatives headed by ODH.

Regarding the Joint Inspection Observation Program, the Ohio Department of Health has a draft agreement fairly consistent with the agreement in place for Ohio EMA. It is in process of discussion with the union. The number of staff participating in the program will be kept to a minimum.

The Department of Health has successfully completed repacking of potassium iodide (KI) for emergency workers and institutionalized population. ODH is finishing revision of the KI policy. The new policy will be put into the latest revision of the state REP plan.

There have been questions raised on the disposal of expired KI due to the quantity that would have to be discarded. ODH has been in contact with the NRC and the manufacturer (Anbex). Also, ODH has been in contact with the Board of Pharmacy regarding proper disposal.

Mr. Mitchell reported for the Department of Agriculture. The Agriculture Brochure is being reviewed by the Director and will be distributed within 2007.

Mr. Zack Clayton reported for the Environmental Protection Agency on the status of the ground water contamination testing. EPA has spoken to FENOC personnel and the protocol has been reviewed by staff and forwarded to management for final comments and there should be something in writing by the next meeting.

Mr. Robert Owen of the Department of Health reported on the latest meeting of the Midwestern Radioactive Material Transportation Committee.

Regarding Section 180 (c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published its revised proposed policy to set forth its revised plans for implementing Section 180 (c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982 in the Federal Register, dated July 23, 2007. This section requires DOE to provide technical and financial assistance for training public safety officials to stated and Indian tribes through whose jurisdictions the DOE plans to transport spent nuclear fuel or high level radioactive waste to a facility authorized under Section A or C of the NWPA. The training is to cover both safe routine transportation and emergency response procedures.

The committee's Section 180(c) Work Group finished its initial review of DOE's draft policy and procedures. Overall, the group was pleased with the published revised draft policy. The comments addressed the need for DOE to fund operational activities of states, eventual rulemaking for solidifying the system for funding, and that the policy and procedures address contingency re-routing.

Ohio supports the comments drafted by the committee. We also believe that it should be left for states to determine how 180(c) funding will be administered within each state. States also need additional information in order to make an adequate assessment of funding needs. In addition, funding to states should continue during off-years.

In addition to soliciting comments from the four regional groups, DOE has sent a letter to the governor of each affected state for the purpose of hearing from the states individually. Ohio EMA, and PUCO will be conferencing on development of specific comments for forwarding by Governor Strickland. Comments are due to DOE by October 22, 2007.

Routing Topic Group

As one of the DOE TEC Working Groups, this group has developed four categories of routing principles to guide the development of an approach to selecting routes. The group felt that a route selection process guided by these principles will produce routes that reduce unnecessary exposure to workers and the general population. The categories are safety (key routes, shipment duration, track class), regulatory (per DOT regulator requirements), operations (flexibility in routing), and institutional (regional input and consolidation of routes).

Letters to DOE

A letter was sent to Edward Sproat, Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, suggesting consideration of lessons learned in the foreign fuel shipment campaign when devising specific campaign plans under the national Transportation Plan, announcing submission of committee comments on Section 180(c) of the NWPA, and supporting the identification of preliminary routes by the Routing Topic Group. Also a letter to James Rispoli, Assistance Secretary for Office of Environmental Management, endorsed the continued use fact sheets for shipping programs, supported sufficient advance transportation planning to allow input from states, and appreciation for the streamlining and transparency of EM's procedures for notifying states of all events involving shipments of radioactive waste and materials.

Rad Specialist Training

DOE has developed a training course that provides at least one member of a first or early responder team to effectively manage a radiation incident until the State Radiation Control Agency arrives. It is not intended for health physicist or other radiation experts. A pilot program was conducted by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on October 2-4. ODH sent a representative to this pilot session for the purpose of critiquing the training. A report on this training will be provided at the next committee meeting.

Committee and Other Appointments

Representative Careen Gordon of the State of Illinois and Senator Steven Buehrer of the State of Ohio were appointed as legislative members to the committee for a two year term. Also, Carol O'Claire of Ohio EMA will be taking the place of Tim Runyon of Illinois as the Midwest representative on the TRANSCOM Users' Group.

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the committee will be in Columbus, Ohio on November 27-29. Traditionally, the last meeting during the term of a Senior Co-Chair of the committee is held in that person's home town. There will also be a tour of the DOE Portsmouth facility near Piketon, Ohio on the last day of the meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Report

Draft copies of the URSB Annual Report were previously sent to the Board members through their Working Group representatives for review. This motion is to approve the language of the report. The report will be sent to the Governor, the Speaker of the Ohio House and President of the Ohio Senate. Ms. Dragani asked for a motion to accept the report. Mr. Shawn Smith of the PUCO moved and Mr. Mitchell of ODA seconded. Motion passed.

B. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Report

Mr. Roland Lickus of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was present to give the report for the NRC.

Since the last meeting, the NRC has issued mid-cycle review letters for both Perry and Davis-Besse.

For Davis-Besse, the letter indicated that the quarterly plant performance remained in the "Licensee Response Column". This is basically that they have all "Green" indicators in their performance indicators or inspection findings. This will result in baseline inspections being conducted as well as the additional inspections of the 4 independent assessment areas of operations, engineering, corrective action program and safety culture/safety conscious work environment. Again, all inspection findings/performance indicators were green requiring no additional oversight.

The letter for Perry stated that the NRC issued a letter on May 2, 2007 informing FENOC that all actions had been completed for Perry to exit Column 4, Multiple, Repetitive Degraded cornerstone. Effective in the second quarter, the plant was put into the "Regulatory Response Column". This is based upon Perry having a "White" finding in the Mitigating Systems Performance Indicator. As a result, a supplemental inspection, called a 95-001, was performed during the week of August 20th to determine a root cause and implementation of corrective actions. The report has been issued and there were no findings.

Mr. Lickus then updated the Board on the activities of the NRC regarding the FENOC actions on the "Exponent" Report. A Confirmatory Order was issued on August 15, 2007 to formalize commitments already made to the NRC by FENOC following the Demand for Information (DFI). The Demand for Information, issued May 14, 2007, has already been discussed at previous Board meetings. The DFI was issued in response to the information provided by FENOC relative to the analysis and reanalysis of the timeline and root cause of the 2002 RPVH degradation at Davis-Besse. The order requires that FENOC perform seven (7) different actions.

1. FENOC will conduct regulatory sensitivity training for select FENOC employees and non-employees to ensure that they communicate information that has potential for regulatory impact either at FENOC sites or the industry to the NRC.
2. They will conduct effectiveness reviews to determine if an appropriate level of regulatory sensitivity is evident among FirstEnergy employees, including those who receive sensitivity training. The effectiveness review shall be conducted in January 2008 by an independent consultant and follow up review shall also be conducted in January 2009.
3. FirstEnergy will develop a formal process to review technical reports prepared as part of a commercial matter. The process shall provide criteria for the licensee to determine whether a report has the potential for regulatory implications.

4. FirstEnergy will assess its regulatory communications policy.
5. They shall provide an operating experience document to the nuclear industry through the industry's established process which discusses the process surrounding the NRC's DFI, including the review of technical reports prepared for a commercial matter.
6. They shall complete a root cause report of the events that culminated in the DFI. Root cause evaluation shall be made available for NRC review.
7. Corrective actions are implemented until procedural changes are made.

FirstEnergy has responded to some items and the NRC is in the process of reviewing those responses and will respond to them, but does not expect to close all of the issues until early 2009.

Mr. Lickus discussed the groundwater contamination issue. He gave some background on the laws/regulations that relate to this topic. No groundwater has been found with Tritium in quantities any where near the limits set. The NRC is monitoring how the plants are implementing the program recommended up by NEI.

Mr. Lickus also reported that Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) is under redesign and that project is near completion. There will be training offered to all states in the Region. This should occur in late November in the Chicago area Regional Office.

C. FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC)

Mr. Vernon Higaki of FirstEnergy was present to give the report for the three FENOC plants.

Beaver Valley Power Station

September 24, 2007 - Unit 1 Outage

Unit 1 commenced a refueling outage on September 24. Currently the plant is in an off-load condition, i.e. all fuel removed from the reactor vessel. The inspection of the three steam generators is complete and did not identify any significant findings. Significant outage activities during this portion of the outage are completion of reactor internals work, weld overlays of the pressurizer nozzles, and work to increase the capacity of the containment sump. Surveillance testing requiring the plant to be in a shutdown condition is in progress as well as a 10 year in-service inspection of select welds.

July 28, 2007 - Fire in switchyard

At 1606 on Monday July 28, 2007, a fire was reported in the switchyard at Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS). The fire was associated with failed electrical breaker associated with a local steel manufacturer and not with BVPS equipment.

The BVPS emergency squad responded to the fire and offsite fire department support was requested through the Beaver County 911 Center.

At 1747, the fire chief reported the fire was out and at 1806 the offsite fire company (Shippingport) was released. BVPS emergency squad remained in switchyard for re-flash watch. The re-flash watch was secured at 1850.

The event was reported to the NRC due to BVPS contacting an offsite organization.

The fire and its consequence did not meet any criteria per the BVPS Emergency Plan and consequently not classified as an emergency event.

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station

Independent Assessments

As part of the NRC confirmatory order related to the Davis-Besse reactor vessel head degradation event, Davis-Besse is committed to performing independent assessment of four key programs for a period of five years (2004-2008).

Three of the four independent assessments scheduled for 2007 have been completed. Following is a summary of the completed assessments:

Operations Performance

The Operations Performance independent assessment was completed in June. There were no Areas for Improvement (AFIs) identified. The following strengths were noted by the assessment team:

- Use of the risk matrix,
- Improved self-checking and peer-checking,
- Use of the Robust Barrier Program,
- Weekly Shift Managers' meetings,
- Implementation of the recommendations of a lessons learned document from the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations report for improving operator fundamentals
- Operations personnel interviewed consider training effective, and
- Use of Just-in-Time Training for infrequently performed plant evolutions.

Corrective Action Program

The Corrective Action assessment was completed in July. There were no AFIs identified. The assessment team identified the following four strengths:

1. Use of the corrective action program by site personnel to identify problems, as well as error-free classification and categorization.

2. Reporting Operating Experience to the industry in a timely fashion,
3. Use of a strong Integrated Performance Assessment process, and
4. The self-assessment process is considered a significant contributor to achieving excellence at Davis-Besse.

Engineering Program

The Engineering Program Effectiveness independent assessment was conducted in September and the preliminary results indicate there were no AFIs identified. The draft report to the site is due in October.

Safety Culture/SCWE

A site wide employee survey was conducted in September. The results of this survey and conduct of the assessment will be performed in late October/early November.

The Confirmatory Order Independent Assessments will continue at Davis-Besse through 2008. The schedule is as follows:

2007/2008 CONFIRMATORY ORDER INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE					
Tentative					
ASSESSMENT	SUBMIT PLAN	CONDUCT ASSESSMENT	EXIT & DRAFT REPORT TO DB	FINAL REPORT TO DB	FINAL REPORT TO NRC
2007 Safety Culture/SCWE	06/1107	9/4 - 9/21 Survey 10/29 - 11/2 On site	(5 wks) 12/14	12/21	1/28/08
Operations Performance	TBD	Second Quarter 2008	TBD	TBD	TBD
Corrective Action Program	TBD	Third Quarter 2008	TBD	TBD	TBD
Engineering Program Effectiveness	TBD	Third Quarter 2008	TBD	TBD	TBD
2008 Safety Culture/SCWE	TBD	Third Quarter (Survey) & Fourth Quarter (Onsite)	TBD	TBD	TBD

15th Refueling Outage

Davis-Besse's 15th Refueling Outage will commence December 30, 2007. The outage is scheduled to last 34 days. Major work activities scheduled to be completed include refueling the reactor, alloy 600 nozzle repair, replacement of feedwater piping, reactor head and vessel inspection, steam generator inspections, and rewind of the main generator.

Alert Notification System Assessment (ANS) - week of October 1st

The six-year self assessment of the Davis-Besse Alert and Notification System was completed the week of October 5, 2007. The assessment team included representatives from Ohio EMA (Mike White), Davis-Besse Emergency Response (ER), and FENOC Fleet ER personnel. This assessment reviewed the ANS process and procedures, a review of demographic or other 10 mile EPZ changes that could affect ambient sound levels, the public information program, siren system testing and an eyewitness validation of a three minute EPZ siren test.

Out of 54 sirens, 52 (96.3 percent) were successful during the test. Two sirens did not rotate as expected. The wiring error is thought to be associated with installation of the recent siren upgrade project. Visual verification identified only these two sirens failed to rotate during the test. The sirens were fixed by the end of the day.

Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Security/Emergency Preparedness Drill

On September 12th, a Hostile Threat Based drill was held using the Nuclear Energy Institute's "Guideline for the Development of EP Drill and Exercise Threat Based Scenarios." The crux of the drill was to integrate the response of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) with the plant's emergency plan. Federal, State, county and local responders participated in the drill as well as a full activation of the plant emergency response organization.

NRC Commissioner Lyons was in attendance as were other Director level personnel from NRC headquarters and the Region III office. Results of the drill were well received by the USNRC.

Participant, controller and NRC good practices and areas for improvement have been identified and shared with the involved agencies.

Each plant in the nation will be conducting one of these drills over the next few years. Perry Plant was the eighth of the 64 plants to conduct this type of drill.

June 29, reactor recirculation pump motor replacement outage

The June 29th plant shutdown required replacement of the reactor recirculation pump motor which was a significant undertaking since it required movement of a large piece of equipment into and out of the plant. This outage required maintaining the plant off-line into the month of July. The plant staff investigated the pump motor failure to determine the cause and to ensure steps are being taken to minimize the chances for recurrence. The plant continues to operate well following this outage.

Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

The Perry Nuclear Power Plant is planning to expand on-site storage for used nuclear fuel. An additional area is necessary as the plant's current storage capacity in the spent fuel pools will be reached in 2010, and work at the Department of Energy National Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada continues to run behind schedule.

The expanded storage area will be located within the secured protected area. The storage system will consist of airtight steel and concrete cylindrical containers on a concrete pad that provides both structural strength and radiation shielding. The system will be maintained by FENOC personnel and meet all NRC regulations.

Additional onsite used fuel storage capacity is vital to the continued operation of the Perry Plant. Without the additional capacity, the plant would have to cease operations when storage in the spent fuel pool was maximized.

The method of used fuel storage to be implemented at Perry is an efficient and safe way of adding on-site fuel storage capacity. About half of the nuclear power plants in the country are either using or planning to build this type of storage system. Such systems currently are being used safely and successfully at FENOC's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station as well as at 40 other sites in the United States.

Perry has selected Holtec International to construct and install the fuel storage system. Plant personnel will develop necessary construction specifications through the early part of 2008. The request for building and zoning permits is expected to begin in late 2007. Perry plans to begin using the system in summer 2010.

FENOC Fleet

Response to Confirmatory Order

STATUS OF COMMITMENTS (italicized)

Conducting regulatory sensitivity training for selected FirstEnergy and FENOC employees. Training material has been developed. Training will begin on October 23 and is scheduled to complete on November 16.

Conducting effectiveness reviews to determine whether an appropriate level of regulatory sensitivity is evident among FirstEnergy employees. The first of these reviews will be conducted by a qualified external consultant in January 2008, with a follow-up review in January 2009. The effectiveness assessment plan is currently under development and is expected to include observation and documentation review, but to focus on interviews to determine if the training was successful.

Developing a formal process for reviewing technical reports prepared as part of a commercial matter, such as an insurance claim or litigation. Process development and implementation is underway and is on schedule to be completed on time. This includes changes to policies and implementing procedures.

Assessing FENOC's Regulatory Communications policy and improving its NRC correspondence procedure. A procedure has been drafted and is in the review process.

A benchmark survey was conducted and the results of the survey were reviewed for inclusion into the procedure.

Providing an Operating Experience (OE) document. The OE report has been issued to the industry already and has been provided to the NRC.

Conducting a root cause evaluation of the events resulting in the May 14 DFI, assessing whether there is any need for any additional corrective actions. The evaluation has been completed and approved. It will be made available for review by NRC inspectors and a summary will be provided to the NRC Office of Enforcement by mid-December

Maintaining interim corrective actions already in place ensuring that FENOC communicates more effectively internally and more promptly with the NRC. Interim corrective actions were put in place in June and will remain in place until the procedural guidance discussed above is in place.

CONCLUSION

FENOC accepts full responsibility for the mistakes and omissions leading up to the damage found at Davis Besse.

FENOC also reaffirms the validity of the event's root causes and corrective actions, which was confirmed through a detailed review. This review reinforces that no further steps are necessary to assure plant safety.

The company continues to maintain an unwavering commitment to operate all of its plants safely and responsibly.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS: The next meeting will be held January 7, 2008. The remaining dates for 2008 are April 7, July 7 and October 14.

V. ADJOURNMENT

DATE

NANCY DRAGANI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHAIR
UTILITY RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY BOARD