

**OPERATING PLANT  
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO NERAC**

**NERAC Meeting**

**Washington, D.C.**

**November 6, 2001**

**J. J. Taylor**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

### **? Meetings:**

**August 13 and September 19, 2001, by telephone conference**

### **? Primary Purpose:**

**Review and comment on the recommendations of the Coordinating Committee for FY 2002 projects for the NEPO Program.**

### **? Present membership:**

**William Bohlke, Maureen Crandall, Robert Long, John Taylor, Neil Todreas  
DOE represented by BP Singh and Glenn Morris  
EPRI represented by Gary Toman**

### **? New member:**

**William Bohlke, VP, Exelon, replacing Greg Rueger, VP, Pacific Gas and Electric. Bohlke is new Chairman of Coordinating Committee and the EPRI Nuclear Power Council**

# **COORDINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ? The Coordinating Committee met on August 13 and developed the FY 2002 project selection recommendations.**
  
- ? The voting procedure for project selection was employed as used previously.**
  
- ? A FY 2002 project list totaling \$24,732 million was presented for consideration.**
  
- ? Selections were made for a FY 2002 DOE funding level for NEPO of \$5 million (House Bill) as well as \$9 million (Senate Bill)**
  
- ? The industry cost share through EPRI is more than 50% at both levels.**
  - \$5 M level: DOE \$4986, EPRI \$7232**
  - \$9 M level: DOE \$8286, EPRI \$10,831**
  
- ? The House-Senate Conference completed their work on the Energy and Water bill last week and authorized \$7M for NEPO.**

# **OPERATING PLANT SUBCOMMITTEE COMMENTS**

## **New Initiatives**

- ? Subcommittee and NERAC concerned that restricted funding allows little opportunity for new projects in 2002.**
- ? Several new projects are being proposed even at the \$5 million level.**
- ? New work may be initiated on Alloy 600 cracking as a result of recent operating plant inspections.**
- ? Commendable that program plans are treated as “living documents” with the flexibility to address new urgent issues.**

## **I&C and Risk Technologies**

**? In the \$5 million funding case, the Coordinating Committee did not recommend any I&C and risk technology projects for DOE NEPO FY 2002 funding, including four continuing projects from FY 2001.**

- Impact modest on three of the continuing projects since carryover funds from FY 2001 will be used for most of planned continuation work.**
- Impact greatest on Project 5-110 for the development of the technical basis and guidance for determining control room capabilities and designs to help utilities with their modernization programs.**
- Utilities are currently starting major I&C modernization programs that will lead to substantial control room changes.**

## **Human Performance Projects**

**No projects on human performance were recommended even at the \$9 million level**

- **Vote Sheet did not include two proposed human performance projects (Potential for Technological Solutions to Alleviate Specific Staffing Problems and Capturing Valuable Work-Related Personal Knowledge)**
- **The proposed projects were identified separately, and not listed on the Vote Sheet, leading to a question as to how seriously they were considered**

**The Subcommittee recommends again that human performance projects be supported by NEPO.**

- **Industry has given high priority to improving human performance and maintaining excellent operating staffs in a time of serious attrition.**
- **The intent expressed in the titles of the proposed two projects directly meets the call of PCAST “to develop the specifics of an R&D program to address the problems that may prevent continued operation of current plants.”**

## **Priorities Between Materials Projects and I&C/Risk/Human Performance Projects**

- ? Materials issues given higher priority**
  - Immediate impact on plant reliability**
  - Longer term impact on aging management to support increased interest in license renewal.**
  
- ? Reluctance to devote resources to projects judged to be technically “soft” compared to projects in materials/components based on “hard” science.**
  
- ? In light of these considerations, the Subcommittee agrees with the Coordinating Committee selections at the \$5 million level, but recommends that serious consideration be given to I&C, risk technology, and human performance projects at the \$7 million level.**

## **Strategic Planning**

**? “Highlights” summary of Joint EPRI-DOE Strategic R&D Plan to Optimize U.S. Nuclear Power Plants completed and issued in mid-June.**

**? A substantially improved document over previous drafts reviewed by the Subcommittee**

**? Recommendations of the Subcommittee generally followed: for brevity, focus on R&D needs and expected value of results, identification of new initiatives, and minimal discussion of broad nuclear power issues.**

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

**? Consideration should be given to a yearly update of the Highlights document in lieu of updating Volume I, the summary of the Plan**

**? DOE/EPRI Staff will need to update the schedule of interactions with the Subcommittee for calendar year 2002**

**? When recommendations are made by the Coordinating Committee for projects to be funded**

**to the \$7 million level, the Subcommittee will meet to review these selections**