**March 25, 2020**

**Questions and Answers from TRTR Community Call with NRC**

On March 25, the NRR Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-power Production and Utilization Facilities (DANU) participated in an informal information call with the National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors (TRTR). The purpose of the call was to discuss potential impacts of COVID-19 on licensing and oversight of non-power production and utilization facilities (NPUFs)..

DANU management re-emphasized that licensees should continue to communicate with project managers (PMs) as their primary means to address potential challenges to licensing requirements, including maintaining surveillances, operator exams and requalification schedules, emergency plan drill and training schedules, impacts on staffing, and other issues. Urgent issues should be communicated with the Headquarters Operations Officer(s) (HOO), who are on duty 24/7 at 301-816-5100.

DANU management also informed TRTR that prior scheduled inspections are being postponed until early April.

A conference call at 1pm EDT will be set up for next Wednesday (April 1). Conference call information will be forthcoming.

Questions:

1. (NIST) Material inventory status reports are coming due for a number of licensees, so is relief available for those coming due in the near term?

Answer - NMSS informed callers that Nuclear Material Management and Safeguards System (NMMSS) is active, and the normal reporting process is available. If a licensee has specific problems with performing inventories, then they should contact their NRC PM to discuss issues and potential relief.

1. (NIST/University of California - Irvine) For issues with maintaining requalification for RO/SROs, are there extensions available?

Answer - There may be relief available dependent on circumstances. For example, RO/SROs that need operating time may be allowed to wait until prior to restart. There may be a means to continue exams remotely. Licensees should look now and consider potential operator licensing impacts over the next three (3) months, then contact their examiner to work out issues, well in advance.

1. (University of Florida) Could an Enforcement Guidance Memoranda (EGM) provide generic relief to RO/SRO testing?

Answer - We are following the work our Office of Enforcement (OE) is doing for generating EGMs. The single EGM being proposed now relates to work hours relief for designated positions at power plants. This EGM does not apply to NPUFs. We are working with OE on other potential EGM topics that may apply to NPUFs. Regardless, licensees still typically need to individually request relief from specific license requirements and include justification that their case applies to the relief in question.

1. (University of Florida/University of California - Irvine) Can we consider some generic relief issues applicable to NPUFs that could be addressed through an EGM(s)? As example, Emergency Plan drills, required periodic training, and periodic medical exams for RO/SROs may be short term generic issues for the Community.

Answer - TRTR executive committee will poll community and provide the NRC staff a list of generic issues. The NRC staff will inform and coordinate with OE on potential for industry generic or NPUF community applicable issues to consider generic actions. DANU management will continue to communicate with TRTR on these activities. Individual licensees should still notify PMs or examiners early on potential issues specific to their facility.

1. (University of Florida) Could there be a way to perform office licensing exams? If we can bring back retired/previously qualified RO/SROs because of staff limitations, can we fast track requalification with exams?

Answer - That may be possible if only a written exam is needed for operator licensee(s). The NRC staff will consider innovative exam options and report back to TRTR executive committee.

1. (NEI) Discussion with the TRTR executive committee resulted in several potential areas where generic treatment might be applicable to NPUFs, including: Part 55 RO/SRO medical exams and requalification exams; Part 74 material inventory reports; Part 50 Emergency Plan drill and training schedules.

Answer - As discussed above, the NRC staff will consider relief individually, while also considering generic applicability for issues that do not have facility specific impacts. We are coordinating with OE on applicability of ongoing EGM efforts and being included by OE as EGM topics are being considered. TRTR offered assistance to poll facilities for short term, common issues that OE and DANU will use in planning additional EGM opportunities.