

American Nuclear Society

NFSC Minutes

November 12, 2007 • Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington DC

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

2. Approval of June 2007 Meeting Minutes

The NFSC minutes from the June 25, 2007, meeting were approved.

3. Standards Issues Discussion

A. Addressing power reactors vs. non reactor nuclear facilities

A brief discussion ensued on what facilities were considered power reactors. The general consensus was that facilities hooked up to a power grid were considered a power reactor.

B. Impact of NRC licensing directions on ANS standards

Members questioned whether the NRC would accept risk-informed standards in licensing under 10 CFR 53. It was suggested to get a policy statement from the NRC. Some speculated that the NRC could be concerned with the additional freedom risk-informed standards allowed.

C. ANSI/ANS-58.3-1992; R1998 Reaffirmation Recirculation Ballot

The committee discussed a maintained negative on the reaffirmation ballot of ANSI/ANS-58.3-1992; R1998, "Physical Protection for Nuclear Safety-Related Systems and Components." It was noted that the term "physical protection" as used prior to 9/11 was not intended to imply facility security and that an updated forward to address the past meaning and provide information on current studies would be added. Per rules and procedures related to maintained negatives, a recirculation ballot had been issued in October 2007 to the full committee. The objector's comments and the working group's response were provided to the committee for consideration. The discussion resulted in no additional objections.

D. Other issues, as appropriate

A workshop was held the previous night. A significant discussion was held on streamlining the standards development process and reasons for delays in the process. It was recognized that achieving agreement within the working group, limited volunteer time, and lack of current resource materials contributed to delays. A committee member volunteered to aid new working group members as a mentor. A schedule to develop a standard in a year was presented at the workshop. It was felt that the standards development process could be expedited if technical requirements were determined up front. To complete in a year, it would be vital to have industry support to provide working group members and financial support for meeting attendance.

The definition for “should, shall, and may” was discussed at the workshop. It was explained that the NFSC Policies and Procedures definition for “should” was actually a requirement while the other ANS consensus committees and other standard developing organizations used “should” as a recommendation. The committee felt that the NFSC definition should be consistent.

The Nuclear Strategic Issues Advisory Committee (NSIAC), a group of power reactor vendor executives, would be focusing on what standards were needed and to support these efforts. NEI senior membership met with senior NRC staff members resulting in a suggestion for NEI to become more involved in consensus standards. NEI was very interested in the revision to ANSI/ANS-3.5-1998, “Nuclear Power Plant Simulators for Use in Operator Training and Examination,” as the NRC would be considering endorsing this standard. NEI was also interested in ANSI/ANS-3.1-1993; R1999, “Selection, Qualification, and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants,” as they needed to address the qualification and training requirements for new reactors. NEI was putting together a working group of executives to determine how to better support the standards process and that they would be provided time during business hours. NEI would be coordinating with INPO and the NFSC to make sure all were on the same page.

A special session for a tutorial on standards through the Operations and Power Division would be presented on Wednesday during the ANS meeting.

4. NFSC Management Reports

A. Chairman Report

The NFSC Chair Report was reviewed. The report showed that two standards were reaffirmed, six ballots were in progress, and three PINS forms were in the approval process with another four PINS in development. More detail about these projects would be provided under the individual subcommittee reports.

Several NFSC members accepted positions as observers due to non-meeting participation. The new observer category allowed for these members to receive all committee communications and provided an opportunity to comment on all activities without the requirements of meeting attendance or balloting. No voting privilege was attached to an observer position on the NFSC.

Use of ANS logo

The committee was reminded not to use the ANS logo when expressing their opinions in publications. The issue arose when a letter was published with the ANS logo and interpreted as representing the ANS position. One ANS member took objection to the position and felt that it did not represent ANS. Members were made aware that they can express their personal opinion but cannot present it as the ANS position. It was acceptable to use the logo for committee correspondence.

NFSC Scope

The NFSC scope was revised due to the restructuring of the subcommittees. The draft scope was distributed to the committee and comments were received. Subcommittee chairs were asked to draft scopes for their subcommittees too.

B. Standards Coordinator Report

Hot List

The Hot List was developed to heighten awareness of standards reaching their 10th year and therefore approaching sunset. It was noted that ANSI/ANS-55.1-1992; R2000, "Solid Radioactive Waste Processing System for Light-Water-Cooled Reactor Plants," was new to the Hot List and should be reviewed to determine the appropriate action.

Most standards had not been officially endorsed by the NRC whether historic or current. It was felt that the status of a standard made no difference to the licensing process as the NRC looked at the technical merits of the design basis. However, it was thought that the NRC could save resources on standards that were maintained current. Members agreed that the NFSC had an obligation to review standards for reaffirmation unless sure there would be no future need. It was recognized that the committee should review standards for reaffirmation, but realistically needed to consider resources and prioritize needs.

It was noted that ANSI/ANS-57.9-1992; R2000, "Design Criteria for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (Dry Type)," was also on the Hot List and should be reviewed to determine if appropriate for reaffirmation.

Process for expediting PINS approval

The PINS approval process had become laborious for the working group. Feedback from last meeting was that a full committee review of PINS was needed. It was suggested that the PINS form was incorrectly being used as a project plan and not as its primary function of ANSI notification.

C. Secretary/Staff Report

The committee was provided a written staff report and standards activity, delinquent, and status reports.

5. NFSC Subcommittee Reports

A. ANS-21 Maintenance, Operation, Testing & Training

Four new members were added to the subcommittee since the June 2008 meeting. The ANS-3.5 draft was completed and sent to ANS for NFSC ballot. Along with the draft, the NFSC would receive a three-column table that tracked changes from the 1998 version to the 200x version with the third column for explanation of the changes.

The ANS-2.10 Working Group retired but would remain with the group as a member. ANSI/ANS-2.23-2002, "Nuclear Plant Response to an Earthquake," would be reassessed after use at the Kashiwazaki Plant. The committee was informed that there was a possibility that NQA-1 was going to take over quality assurance for operations. The ANS-3.12.3 (preliminary draft), "Decommissioning of Nuclear Production and Utilization Facilities: Operator Training," was distributed for comment to the NFSC. The ANS-56.8 Working Group was working on a clarification and a PINS form for a revision. Working group chairs for ANSI/ANS-3.1-1993; R1999, "Selection, Qualification, and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants," and ANSI/ANS-58.6-1996; R2001, "Criteria for Remote Shutdown for Light Water Reactors," were needed. A subcommittee meeting would be held the next day

Inquiries ANS-3.5 and ANS-56.8

The ANS-3.5 clarification was ready and would be sent to ANS-21 for review. The ANS-56.8 chair received the inquiry but a response was not completed.

ANS-21 volunteer needs

As previously noted, ANS-3.1 and ANS-58.6 were in need of working group chairs and members. Subcommittee chairs were requested to provide a spreadsheet that included the title, scope, duration of project, and description of required expertise for all projects in need of support.

B. ANS-22 Systems Design Criteria

Four of standards under the ANS-22 Subcommittee were reaffirmed in 2007 – ANSI/ANS-55.4-1993; R1999; R2007, "Gaseous Radioactive Waste Processing Systems for Light Water Reactor Plants," ANSI/ANS-55.6-1993; R1999; R2007, "Liquid Radioactive Waste Processing System for Light Water Reactor Plants", ANSI/ANS-59.51-1997; R2007, "Fuel Oil Systems for Safety-Related Emergency Diesel Generators," and ANSI/ANS-59.52-1998; R2007, "Lubricating Oil Systems for Safety-Related Emergency Diesel Generators". ANSI/ANS-58.8-1994; R2001, "Time Response Design Criteria for Safety-Related Operator Actions," was currently resolving reaffirmation ballot comments and ANSI/ANS-55.10-1991; R2002, "Auxiliary Feedwater System for Pressurized Water Reactors," was being reviewed by the working group chair to determine if it needed revision or reaffirmation. ANS-58.8 Working Group Chair explained that ANS-58.8 may need to be revised because of a possible new study related to the standard but that he needed confirmation/information from the NRC. The ANS-58.14 Working Group was meeting the following day. The PINS for proposed new standard ANS-58.16, "Safety and Pressure Integrity Classification Loads and Behavior Criteria for Nuclear Facilities Other Than Large Nuclear Reactors," had been reviewed by the Standards Board and comments were being considered by the working group chair.

ANS-22 volunteer needs

ANS-55.1, ANS-55.4, and ANS-55.6 were identified as projects in need of working group members. As all three project scopes were related, it was possible that the same group of experts could work on all.

Identification of new standards per NRC strategic plan

The industry used a lot of existing standards as the basis for design although they may take some exceptions. The industry had an immediate need for design guidance that standards could not meet, for instance more insulation in the containment area.

C. ANS-24 Modeling & Analysis

The ANS-24 Subcommittee report was reviewed. The report noted that the ANS-18.1 Working Group was collecting source term data from volunteer plants; the ANS-41.5 Working Group was addressing editorial issues before submitting a final draft for re-ballot, ANS-5.4 Working Group was monitoring research developments and reports, especially for Pu, Be, W and drummed TRU for impact on the release fractions; and the ANS-58.2 Working Group had a meeting scheduled for November 13, 2008, to work on ACRS comments, an inquiry, and an erratum.

Inquiry & Errata ANS-58.2

As noted above, the ANS-58.2 Working Group was meeting November 13, 2008, and would be working on the inquiry and erratum.

D. ANS-25 Siting: Environmental & Emergency Preparedness

It was noted that ANS-2.6, "Guidelines for Estimating Present & Forecasting Future Population Distributions Surrounding Nuclear Facility Sites," and ANS-40.21, "Siting, Construction, and Operation of Commercial Low Level Radioactive Waste Burial Grounds," were working on resolving NFSC PINS comments that included negatives. Drafts were almost completed for ANS-2.17, "Evaluation of Radionuclide Transport in Ground Water for Nuclear Facilities," and ANS-2.15, "Criteria for Modeling and Calculating Atmospheric Transport of Routine Releases from Nuclear Facilities." New working group chairs were recently found for ANS-2.8, "Determining Design Basis Flooding at Power Reactor Sites," and ANS-2.25, "Surveys of Terrestrial Ecology Needed to License Thermal Power Plants."

Mazzola stated that the ANS-2.27 Working Group was resolving NFSC ballot comments that included negatives. The committee discussed the peer review requirement in the draft. The peer review came from the need to make sure they were comparable because PRA was subjective. Members felt it would be acceptable if the draft included an explanation about the scope of a peer review so users knew when they were done and references were provided for guidance on peer review. Other comments on the ANS-2.27 draft were related to the commentaries. It was recognized that the industry was waiting for this standard and resolution should be expedited to move forward.

The ANS-25 Subcommittee inherited four emergency preparedness standards in the subcommittee restructuring earlier in the year. As the working group chair had been unresponsive to developing a project plan for several years, it was likely the working group chair would be replaced.

ANS-25 volunteer needs/Identification of new ANS-25 standards per NRC strategic plan

Volunteer needs and future standards needs would be identified through the assigned action items to all subcommittee chairs and vice chairs.

E. ANS-27 Fuel Cycle, Waste Management & Decommissioning

The ANS-40.35 Working Group Chair was interested in initiating a reinvigoration of the historic standard, but when soliciting recommendations for working group members from the NFSC, one member questioned whether there was significant need for this standard to be reinvigorated. The committee was questioned on the need for a historical reinvigoration of ANS-40.35. After a brief discussion, it was decided to check with the NEI subject matter experts whether there was a need for the historic standard to be updated.

NFSC comments from the ballot of ANS-40.37, "Mobile Low-Level Radioactive Waste Processing Systems," still needed to be resolved. The committee was reminded that a working group would be formed to revise ANSI/ANS-57.1-1992; R1998; R2005, "Design Requirements for Light Water Reactor Fuel Handling Systems," to include new fuel handling techniques for new reactor designs. A few names for working group members had previously been provided.

Additionally working groups would be reformed to initiate revisions to ANSI/ANS-57.7-1988; R1997, "Design Criteria for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (Water Pool Type)," and ANSI/ANS-57.9-1992; R2000, "Design Criteria for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (Dry Type)."

Inquiry on ANS-57.1

A response to an inquiry on ANSI/ANS-57.1-1992; R1998; R2005, "Design Requirements for Light Water Reactor Fuel Handling Systems," needed to be formalize.

Update on ANS-57.2/ANS-57.3 Ballot Comment Responses

Unfortunately, there was no progress to report on resolving ballot comments on ANS-57.2, "Design Requirements for Light Water Reactor Spent Fuel Facilities at Nuclear Power Plants," and ANS-57.3, "Design Requirements for New Fuel Storage Facilities at LWR Plants."

ANS-27 volunteer needs

Working group members for ANS-40.35, ANS-57.2, and ANS-57.3 were needed.

F. ANS-28 HTGR Design Criteria

A working draft of ANS-53.1, "Nuclear Safety Criteria for the Design of Modular Helium-Cooled Reactor Plants," should be approved by the working group this week and ready for the NFSC shortly. The draft attempted to resolve items on the back burner in ANS-51.1, "Nuclear Safety Criteria for the Design of Stationary Pressurized Water Reactor Plants," and ANS-52.1,

“Nuclear Safety Criteria for the Design of Stationary Boiling Water Reactor Plants,” for SSC classification. A nice job was done for defining the risk information process for reaching conclusions to do SSC classifications. It was through that three new related standards would follow. The committee questioned whether ANS-53.1 would be applicable to LWR.

G. ANS-29 Advanced Initiative

No report was provided as the chair was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Review and Discussion of Existing Action Items

Existing action items were reviewed and closed if completed. Additional action items were assigned as needed.

7. NFSC Liaison Reports

A. ASME-NQA

It was reported that the ASME NQA-1 standard was on a three-year revision cycle. The next revision would be published in 2008. The merits of combining ANS-3.2 with NQA-1 would most likely wane as plants would not want to change QA programs. NQA-1 was expected to be endorsed in the NRC Standards Review Plan for combined operating plants. As ANS-3.2 was being used internationally, it was felt that ANS-3.2 should not be withdrawn.

B. NRMCC

A new NRMCC Co-Chair had been appointed.

C. ISO TC 85/SC-6

No report provided.

D. CSA

There had been no recent contact with CSA to report.

E. NEI

The CNO level would be coordinating support for ANS standards as previously discussed through NSIAC. NEI would be reviewing the draft of ANS-3.5 closely as the NRC was looking to endorse the standard.

F. NuStart

No report provided.

G. INPO

NPO would be most interested in the ANS-3.2, “Administrative Controls and Quality Assurance for the Operational Phase of Nuclear Power Plants,” and ANS-3.5, “Nuclear Power Plant Simulators for Use in Operator Training and Examination,” standards. INPO was putting greater emphasis on emergency preparedness. INPO planned to get more involved in standards although participating on a working group would conflict with INPO’s role as an observer.

8. New Business

Future NFSC meetings may start at 12:30pm so that NFSC members could attend the plenary; however, the time could change for meetings held offsite.

9. Review of New Action Items

Action items from the meeting were reviewed.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.