

NUPIC

Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee

June 28, 2010

To: Nuclear Industry Vendors Participating in the NUPIC Audit Process
From: John Larson, NUPIC Chairman
Subject: Enhancements to the NUPIC Audit Process

The week of June 14th the NUPIC organization met in New Orleans LA for our mid-year Membership Meeting and annual NUPIC/NRC Vendor Conference and Workshop. Over 500 participants heard speakers and participated in breakouts and workshop sessions that covered a wide variety of current industry topics. There is a great deal of promise in the future, as well as significant challenges. We all realize the truth in the statement that “there will be no new nukes, without good old nukes”!

The ability to be self-critical is key to our success. In this spirit, NUPIC Representatives approved a process for NUPIC Audit Team Leaders to evaluate each NUPIC Audit result for learning opportunities. These learning opportunities will be a direct data stream to our Annual Auditor Conference held each Spring. Similarly, we expect that you will take steps to assure that your internal audit processes are effectively implemented. At the membership meeting, we approved a change to the NUPIC Audit checklist that requires audit teams to conclude on the effectiveness of your internal audits. Each finding by the NUPIC Team will prompt the question “Should this finding have been discovered internally?” If you are concerned about the effectiveness of your internal audit program, please take this opportunity to make the necessary changes. The audit team will use audit findings to document conclusions of internal audit ineffectiveness.

Implementation of 10CFR21 continues to challenge all of us. Identification and evaluation for reportability must interface with your corrective action program. Commercial grade dedication requires knowledge of safety function to derive critical characteristics. Expect NUPIC Auditors to be looking ever closer at these activities in response to NRC concerns.

Our reach for the future of commercial nuclear power in this country can only be successful if based on a solid foundation. Many of you have persevered through a difficult era when the outlook for nuclear power was not promising. Nonetheless, a record of safe and reliable performance through that time was achieved, that has made it possible to get to this point where “new nukes” are now on the drawing boards. Join with us to do all we can to make sure those plans become reality.


John Larson
NUPIC Chairman