



U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGULATORY GUIDE

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH

REGULATORY GUIDE 1.134 (Task OL 401-5)

MEDICAL EVALUATION OF LICENSED PERSONNEL FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

A. INTRODUCTION

Sections 55.31, "How To Apply," and 55.57, "Renewal of Licenses," of 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," require that each initial or renewal application for an operator or senior operator license contain a medical examination certification following the form prescribed in Subpart C of Part 55, "Medical Requirements." Sections 55.33, "Disposition of Initial Application," and 55.57 state that the initial or renewal applications for these licenses will be approved if, among other things, the applicant has no medical or general health condition that might cause operational errors endangering public health and safety. Paragraph (i) of § 55.53, "Conditions of Licenses," requires that an examination be conducted every 2 years.

Section 55.25, "Incapacitation Because of Disability or Illness," deals with an operator or senior operator who becomes incapacitated because of a mental or physical condition that might cause impaired judgment or motor coordination.

Section 55.27, "Documentation," requires that the facility licensee document and maintain the medical qualifications data, current test results, and each operator's medical history and provide these to the NRC upon its request.

This guide describes a method acceptable to the NRC staff for providing the information needed by the staff for its evaluation of the medical qualifications of applicants for initial or renewal operator or senior operator licenses for nuclear power plants and for providing notification to the NRC of an incapacitating disability or illness.

*The substantial number of changes in this revision has made it impractical to indicate the changes with lines in the margin.

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards has been consulted concerning this guide and has concurred in the regulatory position.

Any information collection activities mentioned in this regulatory guide are contained as requirements in 10 CFR Part 55, which provides the regulatory basis for this guide. The information collection requirements in 10 CFR Part 55 have been cleared under OMB Clearance No. 3150-0018.

B. DISCUSSION

Section 55.23, "Certification," of Subpart C; "Medical Requirements," of 10 CFR Part 55 requires that a physician examine the applicant in accordance with NRC's regulatory guidance and determine that the examinee's medical condition and general health meet the requirements for granting or renewing an operator license. The physician must send a full medical examination report to the facility licensee, which will then transmit a completed Form 396 to the NRC. The intent of these requirements is to have the facility licensee certify the health of its operators. However, the facility licensee is expected to maintain those records that may be reviewed by the NRC. Therefore, § 55.27 requires the facility licensee to document and maintain the full medical examination report, including the results of medical qualifications data, test results, and each operator's medical history. In addition, § 55.27 requires the facility licensee to retain the most recent medical information as a result of the biennial physical examination and provide that information to the NRC on request. The certification form would be sent by the facility licensee to the NRC.

There are two instances in which medical information must be sent to the NRC. One is when a conditional license based on medical evidence is requested under the provisions of paragraph 55.33(b). The second instance is when a licensed individual has become mentally or physically unable to

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This guide was issued after consideration of comments received from the public. Comments and suggestions for improvements in these guides are encouraged at all times, and guides will be revised, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and to reflect new information or experience.

Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Procedures Branch, DRR, ADM, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

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perform job duties. In this case, the facility licensee must notify the NRC within 30 days after learning that the diagnosis has been made. The facility licensee must forward to the NRC Form 396 and medical records describing the disability. This related information is required by § 55.27 to be documented and maintained by the facility.

An American National Standard developed by the American Nuclear Society, ANSI/ANS-3.4-1983, "Medical Certification and Monitoring of Personnel Requiring Operator Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants,"¹ prescribes minimum requirements necessary to determine that the medical condition and general health of nuclear reactor operators will not cause operational errors. The criteria presented in this standard provide an examining physician a basis for determining whether a potentially disqualifying abnormal health condition exists. Establishing minimum health requirements should aid in more uniform medical evaluations. However, it is necessary to recognize that, although it is the physician's responsibility to identify and evaluate any potentially disqualifying medical conditions, NRC makes the final determination of the applicant's medical fitness.

¹Copies may be obtained from the American Nuclear Society, 555 North Kensington Avenue, La Grange Park, Illinois 60525.

Nothing in ANSI/ANS-3.4-1983 or this guide should be construed to mean that such matters as an individual's reading habits, political or religious beliefs, attitudes on social, economic, or political issues should be investigated or judged.

C. REGULATORY POSITION

The requirements contained in ANSI/ANS-3.4-1983, "Medical Certification and Monitoring of Personnel Requiring Operator Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants,"¹ provide a method acceptable to the NRC staff for determining the medical qualifications of applicants for initial or renewal operator or senior operator licenses.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this section is to provide information to applicants and licensees about the staff's plans for using this regulatory guide.

Except in those cases in which the licensee proposes an acceptable alternative method for complying with specified portions of the Commission's regulations, the methods described in the guide will be used in evaluating the part of an application for initial or renewal operator or senior operator licenses on NRC Form 396, "Certificate of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee."

VALUE/IMPACT ANALYSIS

A separate value/impact analysis has not been prepared for this regulatory guide. A value/impact analysis was included in the regulatory analysis for the amendments to 10 CFR Part 55 published on March 25, 1987, a copy of which was placed in the Public Document

Room at that time. This analysis is also appropriate to Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 1.134. A copy of the regulatory analysis is available for inspection and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H Street NW., Washington, DC.

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