



10 CFR Part 51 License Renewal (GEIS) Rulemaking

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
January 11, 2012



Overview and Introduction

Bill Borchardt

Executive Director for Operations

January 11, 2012

Agenda

- Overview – Bill Borchardt
- License Renewal Rule – Eric Leeds
- Rulemaking & GEIS Revision – Melanie Galloway
- Summary of Changes – Andrew Imboden



Origins of 10 CFR Part 51 License Renewal Rule

Eric Leeds, Director

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

January 11, 2012

License Renewal Rule

- License renewal environmental review regulations and GEIS (NUREG-1437) published in 1996
- License renewal a successful program
- Proposed revisions incorporate lessons learned and knowledge gained from completed reviews (71 units)



10 CFR Part 51 License Renewal (GEIS) Rulemaking

Melanie Galloway, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of License Renewal

January 11, 2012

Topics

- Purpose of License Renewal GEIS
- Rulemaking Objectives
- Overview of the Rulemaking
- Summary of Public Interest
- Major Issues – In Scope
- Major Issues – Out of Scope

Purpose of License Renewal GEIS

- Evaluate environmental impacts of renewing nuclear power plant operating licenses
- Identify and assess impacts that are expected to be generic (the same or similar) at all nuclear plants
- Define the number and scope of issues that need to be addressed in plant-specific EISs

Rulemaking Objectives

- Incorporate lessons learned and knowledge gained from completed plant-specific environmental reviews
- Identify changes to laws, executive orders, and other government-wide environmental practices since 1996
- Reorganize environmental issues and the GEIS for clarity

Overview of the Rulemaking

- Basis for Update:
 - Table B–1 in Appendix B to Subpart A of Part 51
 - 10-year cycle to review of Appendix B, GEIS is the technical basis
- Proposed rule and Draft GEIS issued for public comment in July 2009

Overview of the Rulemaking (Cont.)

- Significant public outreach
 - Six public comment meetings on the revised GEIS and proposed rule
 - One meeting in Regions I, II, and III and two meetings in Region IV
 - One Webinar meeting at HQ
 - One rule implementation meeting at HQ
 - All meetings had open phone lines

Overview of the Rulemaking (Cont.)

- Response to public outreach
 - Public comment period was extended from 75 days to 165 days ending in January 2010
 - Large volume of comments received from industry, environmental public interest groups, and State agencies

Overview of the Rulemaking (Cont.)

- EPA gave the GEIS revision its highest rating “LO” – Lack of Objections
 - EPA’s review did not identify any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes.
- Rulemaking is consistent with Commission’s SRM on the cumulative effects of regulation

Summary of Public Interest

- Hundreds of comments were received from various interest groups including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Riverkeeper, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Pilgrim Watch, Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility
 - Nuclear Energy Institute
 - New York and Connecticut Attorneys General
 - California Energy Commission

Selected Major Issues – In Scope

- Radionuclides in groundwater
- Human health impacts
- Postulated accidents

Selected Major Issues – Out of Scope

- Seismicity
- Emergency preparedness and security
- Spent nuclear fuel and waste disposal
- Fukushima event



Summary of Changes to Part 51 and the Revised GEIS

Andrew Imboden, Chief

Environmental Review and Guidance Update
Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Division of License Renewal

January 11, 2012

Topics

- Key Concepts
- Summary of Changes
- New Issues
- Implementation
- Summary

Key Concepts

- The NRC Staff's Compliance with Environmental Laws
- Environmental regulations – Part 51 and Table B-1
- How environmental issues are organized
- Categorization of issues

Summary of Changes

- Reorganization and consolidation of issues
 - 78 environmental issues (was 92)
 - 17 requiring plant-specific reviews (was 22)

Selected New Issues

- Category 1
 - Exposure of terrestrial and aquatic organisms to radionuclides
 - Geology and soils
- Category 2
 - Radionuclides released to groundwater
 - Environmental justice

Selected Re-Categorized Issues

- Air quality
- Groundwater and soil contamination
- Housing
- Public services
- Offsite land use

Implementation

- Final rule package to the Commission due May 1, 2012
 - Final guidance documents will be provided to the Commission with the final rule
 - Guidance will be effective when final rule is published
 - Guidance documents incorporate input received from public comments

Summary

- Complex rulemaking
- Benefits of revision
- Significant public involvement

Acronyms

- CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
- EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
- GEIS – Generic Environmental Impact Statement
- HQ – headquarters
- LO – lack of objections