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NRC PROPOSES NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR
TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PERSONNEL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations to include requirements for training and qualification of nuclear power plant personnel. If implemented, the proposed rule would meet the directives contained in Section 306 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) OF 1982. Section 306 directed the NRC to promulgate regulations or other appropriate guidance establishing instructional requirements for the training of civilian nuclear power plant personnel.

As proposed, applicants for and holders of a license to operate nuclear power plants would be required to establish and use a systems approach to training in developing training programs for nuclear power plant personnel that consider all modes of operation. The systems approach to training has been used successfully by the military and in other technical areas where human performance and safety are primary concerns. The nuclear industry has also been using the systems approach to training process for much of the past decade. Therefore, the proposed rule would build upon current industry initiatives related to training and qualification.

Under this approach, there would be a systematic analysis of job performance requirements to identify learning objectives. Following the analysis, training programs would be designed and developed to address the identified learning objectives. After delivery of the training, trainees would be evaluated on the basis of performance standards outlined in the learning objectives. Training programs would then consistently be evaluated and revised, as necessary, based on measurement and observation of trainee performance on the job.

Applicants and licensees would also have to ensure that all affected personnel have qualifications commensurate with the levels and types of responsibilities assigned to them. Qualification requirements for each affected position would be derived from the analysis phase of the systems approach to training.

Licensees would be required to have the training programs in place no later than 180 days after the effective date of the rule. Applicants for an operating license would be required to have the training programs in place no later than 18 months prior to fuel load, or 180 days after the effective date of the rule, whichever comes later.

Comments on the proposed amendment to Parts 50 and 52 should be submitted in writing by March 9, 1992. They should be addressed to: The Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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