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NRC ADOPTS REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PERSONNEL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to include requirements governing training and qualification of nuclear power plant personnel. The amendments implement the directives of 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.

The amendments require applicants for and holders of a license to operate nuclear power plants to establish and use a systems approach to training (SAT) 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 SAT process for much of the past decade. The amendments build on current industry initiatives related to training and qualification.

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

Applicants and licensees will also have to assure that all affected personnel have job and task qualifications commensurate with the levels and types of responsibilities assigned to them. Job and task qualification requirements for each affected position will be derived from the analysis phase of the systems approach to training.

Licensees will be required to have training programs in place no later than October 25, 1993. Applicants for an operating license will be required to have the training programs in place no later than 18 months prior to fuel load, or by October 25, 1993, whichever comes later.

The amendments to Parts 50 and 52 of the Commission's regulations will be effective on May 26, 1993.

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