

No. 94-37  
Tel. 301/504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Monday, February 28, 1994)

NRC TO CLARIFY REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING  
LICENSE RENEWAL FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has authorized its staff to proceed with a proposed rulemaking which would clarify and simplify its current requirements governing renewal of existing operating licenses for nuclear power plants.

The proposed revisions will reflect views expressed at a license renewal workshop held in Bethesda, Maryland, last September and on lessons learned from pre-application rule implementation experience.

In authorizing the proposed rulemaking, the Commission directed the staff to prepare a detailed Statement of Considerations that provides the bases for the revised rule and the changes from the original rule.

The statement is to reflect the following Commission guidance that:

1. The existing regulatory processes, including the Commission's maintenance rule, ensure an acceptable level of safety for a period of extended operation with the possible exception of the detrimental effects of aging on the ability of specified systems, structures and components to function as intended.

2. The focus of license renewal be on the management of the effects of aging as the best means for ensuring that important systems, structures and components in nuclear power plants function as intended during a period of extended operation.

3. The categories of systems, structures and components which must be reviewed for the period of extended operation be identified and there be a clear rationale for why they are selected and others excluded.

4. The revised rule permit a finding that those systems, structures and components will function as intended during the extended period of operation.

A public comment period will be provided when the proposed revisions to Part 54 of the Commission's regulations are issued.