

Withdrawn

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2000-14, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated September 6, 2000, has been withdrawn.

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See *Federal Register* notice 81 FR 31969, dated
May 20, 2016

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 6, 2000

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2000-14
PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

ADDRESSEES

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the NRC staff's need for updated information pertaining to projected site-specific operator licensing examination schedules and estimated numbers of applicants planning to take operator licensing examinations and the NRC's generic fundamentals examinations (GFEs). This information will help the NRC to more effectively plan the use of its resources. This RIS requires no specific action or written response on the part of addressees. Any action on the part of addressees to collect and transmit the information noted herein is strictly voluntary.

BACKGROUND

On April 23, 1999, the NRC published a notice in the *Federal Register* (64 FR 19868) amending 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," to allow nuclear power facility licensees to prepare, proctor, and grade their own written examinations and prepare the operating tests. However, facility licensees that elect not to prepare their own examinations and operating tests must request in writing pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(c) that the examination and operating tests be prepared by the NRC.

Administrative Letter (AL) 99-03, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," issued August 20, 1999, requested that facility licensees submit proposed schedules of examinations that they intended to prepare and to estimate the number of applicants to be tested in both site examinations and GFEs in calendar years (CYs) 2000 through 2003. This RIS supercedes AL 99-03, and its objective is to update schedule estimates for CYs 2001 through 2004.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

The two modes of examination development (that is, whether developed by the facility or the NRC) require significantly different resource commitments on the part of the NRC. On the basis of its experience since beginning the examination pilot and transition program in 1995, the NRC has determined that it can review, approve, administer, and document a facility-prepared examination in approximately half the time that it takes to prepare the examination itself. Year-to-year fluctuations in the total number of examinations further complicate the NRC's budgeting and scheduling activities. Consequently, the NRC has found it necessary to obtain updated data on power reactor facility licensees' initial operator licensing examination needs, including estimates of the number of applicants to be examined and the facility licensees' intentions regarding preparation of the examinations. NRC Form 536 has been revised to accommodate the voluntary reporting of this information.

The NRC expects to solicit the voluntary reporting of updated information concerning operator licensing examinations annually through its generic communications program. This information will help the NRC budget and schedule its resources. The NRC regional offices will continue to coordinate specific examination dates with the training managers of affected facility licensees.

NEEDED INFORMATION

The plant-specific information that is needed by the NRC for resource planning purposes is identified in Attachment 1:

A. Proposed Examination Preparation Schedule:

Estimate the number of examinations you intend to prepare and estimate the number of examinations you will request the NRC to prepare during CYs 2001 through 2004. For examinations that are prepared by facility licensees, the NRC will assume that each examination includes the required outline, written examination(s), and operating test(s), unless otherwise specified (shared examination development is permitted and should be coordinated with the appropriate NRC regional office).

B. Initial Operator License Examinations:

For each desired examination, estimate the number of applicants to be tested and enter the proposed primary and alternate dates of examination. If you are requesting more than one examination per calendar year, split the applicable column or use additional forms, as necessary, to cover all the examinations through CY 2004.

C. Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule:

Estimate the number of applicants who plan to take the GFE in CYs 2001 and 2002.

VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

Addressees that choose to submit the information identified in NRC Form 536 are asked to do so within 30 days after receipt of this RIS. Your response should be directed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, and a copy of the response should be sent to the applicable regional office.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS requires no action or written response. Any action on the part of addressees to collect and transmit operator licensing examination data in accordance with the guidance contained in this RIS, for the purpose of aiding the NRC in planning the use of its resources, is strictly voluntary. Therefore, this is not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, and the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS contains a voluntary information collection that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (22 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). This voluntary information collection is covered by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance number 3150-0131, which expires on July 31, 2002. The public reporting burden for this voluntary information collection (NRC Form 536) is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to bjs1@nrc.gov and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION

If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB clearance number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact one of the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Project Manager.

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Attachments:

1. NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data"
2. List of Recently Issued NRC Regulatory Issue Summaries

NRC FORM 636 <small>(8-2000)</small>		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		APPROVED BY OMB: NO. 2150-0131		EXPIRES: 07/31/2002	
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DATA				<small>Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (1-8 55), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to 1@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.</small>			
FACILITY						MRC REGION	
A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE							
PROPOSED NUMBER	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS							
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS							
B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS							
PROPOSED NUMBER	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS							
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - INSTANT							
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - UPGRADE							
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - LIMITED							
PROPOSED DATES							
PRIMARY DATE							
ALTERNATE DATE							
C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE							
PROPOSED NUMBER	CY ____			CY ____			
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES							

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact one of the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Project Manager.

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LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARIES

Regulatory Issue Summary No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
2000-13	Annual Report on the Effectiveness of Training in the Nuclear Industry for Calendar Year 1999	08/18/2000	All holders of OLs for nuclear power reactors
2000-12	Resolution of Generic Safety Issue B-55, "Improved Reliability of Target Rock Safety Relief Valves"	08/07/2000	All holders of OLs for nuclear power reactors, except those licensees who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel
2000-11	NRC Emergency Telecommunications System	6/30/2000	All holders of OLs for nuclear power reactors
2000-10	Technical Information of Facilitate Public Access to the U.S. NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)	6/30/2000	All NRC licensees
2000-09	Standard Review Plan for Licensee Requests to Extend the Time Periods Established for Initiation of Decommissioning Activities	06/26/2000	All material licensees regulated in accordance with 10 CFR parts 30, 40, and 70
2000-08	Voluntary Submission of Performance Indicator Data	03/29/2000	All holders of OLs for nuclear reactors, except for those licensees who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel