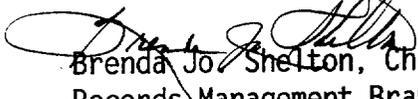




UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 24, 1998

MEMORANDUM TO: Tom Essig, Acting Chief
Generic Issues and Environmental Projects Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: 
Brenda Jo Shelton, Chief
Records Management Branch
Office of the Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: PARTIAL ACCEPTANCE OF PETITION FOR RULEMAKING SUBMITTED BY
THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE TO AMEND 50.54(a)

The Office of the Chief Information Officer has reviewed the subject Commission Paper and concurs in it. However, please include the following OCIO Coordination statement in the Commission paper:

The Office of the Chief Information Officer has reviewed the proposed rulemaking plan for information technology and information management implications and concurs in it.

It appears that both the direct final rule, that will permit nuclear power plants to make, without prior NRC approval, certain unilateral QA program changes, and the proposed rulemaking that will establish new criteria for making QA program changes without prior NRC approval, may modify information collection requirements. Therefore, both rules would require Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approval. Any rule that significantly changes the burden or information collections must be submitted to OMB for review.

Please submit the direct final rule and an NRC Form 670, "Information Required for Making an Insignificant Burden Determination to Support a Decision that OMB Clearance is not Required," for OCIO review in adequate time to ensure that we can obtain a determination from OMB whether or not a complete OMB clearance package is required. If OMB determines that the direct final rule requires clearance, we must publish both a proposed and final rule, and must submit a complete clearance package to OMB no later than the date the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

T. Essig

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We anticipate that the proposed rule to fully address QA program changes that can be made without NRC approval will require clearance, not only because licensees will no longer be required to submit certain QA program changes to NRC for approval, but also because it appears that licensees will be required to develop evaluations to monitor the performance of the QA program and trend parameters to determine the need for QA programmatic corrective actions. Therefore, please submit the draft proposed rule and OMB clearance package in sufficient time to ensure that the OMB clearance package is approved for submittal to OMB no later than the date the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

Should you have any questions, please contact Beth St. Mary on 415-5878 or e-mail BCS.

cc: D. Meyer, ADM
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H. Tovmassian, NRR