

DRAFT SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR
REACTOR EVENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
10 CFR 50.72(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (b), and (c), 50.54(z)

DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION COLLECTION

Section 50.54(z) makes it a license condition that each licensee licensed under Sections 103 or 104b of the Atomic Energy Act shall make the notifications specified in §50.72.

Sections 50.72(a)(1) and 50.72(a)(2) require that each power reactor licensee notify the NRC of specified events via the Emergency Notification System (ENS). If the ENS is inoperable, the licensee shall make the notifications via commercial telephone or other means. Many of these events are also subject to follow-up written reports as required by 10 CFR 50.73. These written follow-up reports are covered by a separate OMB clearance, 3150-0104.

Section 50.72(a)(3) specifies notification immediately after notification of State and local authorities and not later than one hour after the licensee declares one of the Emergency Classes. Activation of the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS), as required by §50.72(a)(4), is covered in Section 29 of this clearance.

Section 50.72(b)(1) requires notification as soon as practical and in all cases within one hour of the occurrence of any deviation from the plant's Technical Specifications authorized pursuant to §50.54(x) of this part.

Section 50.72(b)(2) requires notification as soon as practical and in all cases within 4 hours of events such as plant shutdown required by Technical Specifications, an event that results or should have resulted in an emergency core cooling system discharge into the reactor coolant, an event that results in actuation of the reactor protection system, or any event or situation related to the health and safety of the public or protection of the environment for which a news release is planned.

Section 50.72(b)(3) requires notification as soon as practical and in all cases within 8 hours of events such as (1) an event or condition that results in the nuclear power plant or any of its principal barriers being seriously degraded or the nuclear plant being in an unanalyzed condition that degrades plant safety; (2) events or conditions that result in valid actuation of specified safety systems; (3) events or conditions that could have prevented fulfillment of the safety condition of structures and systems needed to shut down and maintain the reactor in a safe condition, remove residual heat, control the release of radioactive material, and mitigate the consequences of an accident; (4) hospitalization of contaminated personnel; and (5) any event that results in a major loss of communications or emergency assessment capability.

Section 50.72(c) requires that during the course of the event, the licensee shall: (1) immediately report any further degradation, any change of Emergency Class, (2) the results of ensuing evaluations, the effectiveness of response or protective measures, or plant behavior that is not understood; and (3) maintain an open, continuous communication channel with the NRC Operations Center upon request by the NRC.

These reporting requirements affect 104 operating nuclear plants and 20 permanently shutdown nuclear plants.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Need for and Practical Utility of the Collection of Information

The NRC staff evaluates the information transmitted to the Commission in response to these reporting requirements and makes timely decisions required to provide adequate assurances regarding actual or potential threats to public safety. In addition, operational experience feedback is required to meet the NRC's statutory requirements for regulating the nuclear industry.

2. Agency Use of Information

The events reported under 50.72 are assessed immediately to determine the adequacy of emergency response actions, if needed. They are also assessed both individually and collectively to determine their safety significance and their generic implications and to identify any safety concerns with the potential to seriously impact public health and safety. The evaluation of these events provides valuable insights on improving reactor safety. Additionally, the reports are provided to the public in order to increase public confidence by demonstrating the NRC operates transparent manner.

3. Reduction of Burden Through Information Technology

There is no legal obstacle to the use of information technology. Moreover, NRC encourages its use; however, at the current time, no responses are submitted electronically.

4. Effort to Identify Duplication and Use Similar Information

The information is available only from nuclear power reactor licensees and does not duplicate other information collections made by NRC or other government agencies. The Information Requirements Control Automated System (IRCAS) was searched, and no duplication was found.

5. Effort to Reduce Small Business Burden

These reporting requirements only affect nuclear power reactor licensees. Therefore, there is no burden on small business.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection is Not Conducted or is Conducted Less Frequently

Not collecting this data or less frequent data collection would, in general, substantially reduce the NRC's ability to respond promptly to emergencies and would degrade the NRC's ability to assess operating experience and act on the lessons learned in a timely manner, including corrective actions to prevent recurrences.

7. Circumstances which Justify Variation from OMB Guidelines

Notification of significant events is needed in one to eight hours to ensure that the NRC promptly responds to situations with the potential to seriously impact public health and safety. Additionally, it allows the NRC to be informed of significant events in order to respond to public inquiries.

8. Consultations Outside the NRC

Notice of opportunity for public comment on this information collection was published in the *Federal Register*, prior to the last rulemaking in October 2000. This latest rulemaking made the reporting requirements less burdensome on the licensees by basing the reporting on the significance of the event and eliminating reporting for non-significant events. However, the burden per report did not significantly change.

Notice of opportunity for public comment on this information collection has been published in the Federal Register.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality of Information

Proprietary or confidential information is protected in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's regulations. However, confidential information is not anticipated.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

The subject regulations do not request sensitive information. However, if any reported information is within the purview of the Privacy Act, it would be handled in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790.

12. Estimated Industry Burden and Burden Hour Cost

Based on experience in recent years, it is estimated that about 500 reports per year will be received in response to 10 CFR 50.72. The burden for each call is estimated to be 90 minutes. Therefore, the total annual burden would be about 750 person hours. At \$156 per person hour, the annual cost to industry would be about \$117,000. Staff estimates that of this burden, 10 percent (75 hours) is attributable to recordkeeping associated with the requirement, and 90 percent (675 hours) is reporting.

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

None.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

Events Analysis

The cost to the Federal government is estimated as follows:

- a. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation - 4.25 person years (2,080 person hours/per year x 4.25 person years = 8,840 person hours) $8,840 \times \$156 = \$1,379,040$.
- b. Four Regional offices - 1 person year each (2,080 person hours x 4 = 8,320 person hours) $8,320 \times \$156 = \$1,297,920$.

Event Report Receipt

- a. One operations officer on shift 7 days per week, 24 hours per day (8,760 hours per year) and one additional operations officer on shift for 8 hours on weekdays (2,080 hours per year) for a total of 10,840 hours x \$156 = \$1,691,040 per year.
- b. The projected cost of maintaining the emergency telecommunications system (Direct Access Lines) is estimated at \$658,000 per year during this clearance period.
- c. The projected costs for maintaining the satellite phones and associated equipment maintenance is \$50,000 per year.

Events Tracking System. The Events Tracking System is a computer system that stores, tracks, and distributes the events internally and externally. The cost of this process is \$250,000 per year.

Based on the above, annual Federal cost associated with these regulations is estimated to be $(\$1,379,040 + \$1,297,920 + \$1,691,040 + \$658,000 + \$250,000 + \$50,000) = \$5,326,000$. This cost is fully recovered through fee assessments to NRC licensees pursuant to 10 CFR 170 and/or 171.

15. Reasons for Changes in Burden or Cost

Licensees Burden

The estimated burden has been reduced from 2,100 to 750 hours and is based on experience over the last several years and is due to the recent change in the reporting requirements and better plant operations by the licensees.

Cost to the Federal Government

The estimated cost has decreased slightly from \$5,697,800 to \$5,326,000 and is attributed to a combination of the following:

- a. Reduction of personnel budgeted in NRR to preform events analysis (from 8 personnel to 4.25 personnel).
- b. Maintenance costs for the Event Tracking System added to reflect current spending levels.
- c. Maintenance costs for the emergency telecommunications system increased to reflect current spending levels.
- d. The inclusion of costs for satellite phones and maintenance of associated equipment.
- e. The increase in the base burden cost from \$141 to \$156.

16. Publication for Statistical Use

The collection information is not published for statistical purposes.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the Expiration Date

The requirement is contained in a regulation. Amending the Code of Federal Regulations to display information that, in an annual publication, could become obsolete would be unduly burdensome and too difficult to keep current.

18. Exceptions to the Certification Statement

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

Not applicable.