

## Attachment 2

### Generic Communication Products

The generic communications program uses four products: bulletins, generic letters, regulatory issue summaries, and information notices. The program no longer uses administrative letters. The characteristics of each generic communication product are described.

#### Bulletins

Bulletins are used to address significant issues that also have great urgency. Bulletins are the only generic communication product that may be designated "urgent" and, therefore, will be issued without public comment. Bulletins may request information and will require a response pursuant to §50.54(f), in keeping with the urgent nature of a bulletin. Bulletins that request action will be reviewed in accordance with §50.109. Bulletins will always be subject to CRGR review, but not necessarily before they are issued.

#### Generic Letters

Generic letters will be used to request information or action or both. Generic letters address only technical issues. Generic letters are designated "routine." Therefore, the critical difference between bulletins and generic letters is that bulletins will be issued without public comment and generic letters will be published in the *Federal Register* for public comment. Generic letters that request action (versus only requesting information) are reviewed in accordance with §50.109. Generic letters typically do not invoke §50.54(f) unless the NRC has been unable to obtain needed information through other means. A rationale for information requests, justifying the burden relative to the safety significance of the issue is provided. Generic letters are always be subject to CRGR review. Generic letters are not issued without prior staff interaction with the industry and the public.

#### Regulatory Issue Summaries

The NRC communicates with the nuclear power industry on a variety of matters for which no response or action is requested. This functional need had previously been met through the use of administrative letters and, in some cases, generic letters. The "regulatory issue summary," better meets this need. Regulatory issue summaries are used to (1) document NRC endorsement of the resolution of issues addressed by industry-sponsored initiatives, (2) solicit voluntary licensee participation in staff-sponsored pilot programs, (3) inform licensees of opportunities for regulatory relief, (4) announce staff technical or policy positions not previously communicated to the industry or not broadly understood, and (5) address all matters previously reserved for administrative letters. CRGR is given the opportunity to review all regulatory issue summaries.

#### Information Notices

Information notices are used to inform the nuclear industry of significant, recently identified, operating experience. Recipients are expected to review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar

problems. Information notices will not convey or imply new requirements or new interpretations, and will not request information or actions. Therefore, CRGR review and endorsement and a *Federal Register* notice to solicit public comment are not required.