

NRR FIRE PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Background:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been attempting to apply its four outcome goals to the management of its fire protection program: Maintain safety, reduce unnecessary regulatory burden, increase public confidence, and improve efficiency and effectiveness, and has met with limited success. The difficulty stems from (1) the fact that we have prescriptive regulations that are subject to different interpretations and are not always able to be enforced in a clear and consistent way, and (2) the fact that licensees have varying degrees of specificity in their licensing basis and in some cases are substantially different, which can also lead to different interpretations of regulatory intent. In addition, attempts to employ risk-informed thinking in the area of fire protection have met with limited success because of the complexity of the technical issues and the lack of data upon which to draw conclusions.

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Fire Protection Improvement Program (NRR FPIP) continues to receive considerable feedback from a number of stakeholders. These include concerns with:

- The lack of progress in resolving circuit analysis issues (Attachment 1)
- The extended hiatus in circuit analysis inspection activity (Attachment 1)
- The lack of uniformity in our approach when manual actions are employed to meet 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R III.G.2 (Attachment 2, Item 1)
- Our inspections which do not always take into account the current licensing basis at the facility being inspected or give credit for self assessments (Attachment 2, Item 2)
- The treatment of old design issues in the fire protection area and issue management in general (Attachment 2, Item 3)
- The application of Significance Determination Process (SDP) in the fire protection area (Attachment 2, Item 4)
- The apparent overuse of fire watches as compensatory measures (Attachment 2, Item 5)
- Concerns with the application of “Quantitative Fire Hazard Analysis Methods” in the inspection program, and testing of selected fire barrier materials (Attachment 2, Item 6)
- The NRC position on fire protection equipment included in the scope of License Renewal Application reviews (Attachment 2, Item 7)
- The lack of adequate guidance for advanced reactors in the fire protection area (Attachment 2, Item 8).

All of these concerns point to the need for a comprehensive Fire Protection Improvement Plan (FPIP) to manage staff efforts to improve the fire protection regulatory environment (Attachment 2, Item 9). The FPIP will be managed by the NRR’s Division of Systems Safety and Analysis (DSSA).

Plan Objectives:

Much progress has been made in a number of fire protection areas, including the issuance of a comprehensive Regulatory Guide, a proposed risk-informed and performance-based rule (Attachment 2, Item 10), and substantial improvements in inspector training. Emerging challenges facing the fire protection program reinforce the need for a clear and comprehensive fire protection improvement plan (FPIP). This NRR FPIP started in October 2002.

The FPIP was developed to consider and take appropriate actions in response to concerns and feedback from stakeholders regarding implementation of the fire protection program. The FPIP is formulated as a separate document comprising a list of fire protection improvement activities with milestones and schedules identified. The first element of the FPIP is a proposed inspection and resolution plan for the longstanding circuit analysis issue. The circuit analysis resolution plan was updated in October 2002. The FPIP also describes other topics of the improvement plan that are in place or will be developed as resources permit.

The FPIP combines the Circuit Analysis Resolution Plan, FP SDP Improvement Program with our rulemaking plans (NFPA-805), resolution to the issue of using manual action to meet 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Section III.G.2, guidance development, and training initiatives to produce a comprehensive plan. In order to effectively manage the fire protection program consistent with other agency programs, it will also be necessary get old design issues into a satisfactory resolution process. Experience has shown that the Task Interface Agreement (TIA) process has not served us well when evaluating performance issues where the licensing basis was not clear, or when evaluating old design issues. The TIA process has been augmented with decision logic that would enable more efficient application of limited resources for emerging fire protection issues that are identified in the ROP to determine if they represent actual performance deficiencies, preferably before they have triggered an inspection finding and a formal risk significance determination (Attachment 2, Item 3).

A pilot effort to resolve potential generic issues associated with gaseous suppression systems identified in the ROP has been completed (Attachment 2, Item 3). The pilot effort employed augmented decision logic to require a prompt decision on the applicability of the current licensing basis, then move those issues which are not subject to enforcement into a backfit process, rulemaking process, or generic issue process, taking risk implications into consideration. The decision logic provided for the issues to be prioritized so that resource application determinations could be made. In December 2002, SPLB staff provided training to DLPM on using the augmented decision logic. The results of this pilot effort will be shared with the program office to be evaluated for acceptability as an approach for old design issues across the board, not just for fire protection issues. Other issues such as indeterminate circuit analysis aspects will be transferred to the Office of Research for consideration in the fire protection research plan.

The FPIP has four attachments. The first attachment covers the proposed circuit analysis inspection and resolution plans. The second attachment deals with other fire protection topics that have been identified by stake holders. The third attachment lists public meetings that have been held to resolve major fire protection issues. The fourth attachment identifies fire protection emerging issues. These attachments will be revised as necessary to update progress and identify new issues.

**Fire Protection Improvement Plan
Proposed Circuit Analysis Inspection and Resolution (CARP) Plans
Attachment 1**

Part 1: Inspection Plan - Below items support the withdrawal of the circuit analysis EGM

Obtain Stakeholder Perspectives from the Facilitated Workshop.	February 2003 (Complete)
Meet with NEI on the Draft inspection plan	March 2003 (Complete)
Develop a Regulatory Information Summary (RIS)	TBD
Issue the RIS for public comment	TBD
Issue the final RIS	TBD
Begin Training NRC Staff on the Inspection Guidance.	September 2003
Withdraw Circuit Analysis Enforcement Guide Memorandum (EGM).	October 2003

Part 2: Circuit Analysis Resolution Plan (CARP) - Below items support the initiation of revisions to Reg Guide 1.189 and Rulemaking

Develop and Obtain Management Approval of CARP.	September - October 2002 (Complete)
Staff and NRC Contractors Develop CARP Resolution.	January - June 2003
Initiate Rulemaking Plan.	January 2004
Endorse the final industry guidance in a revision to Reg. Guide 1.189.	December 2004

**Fire Protection Improvement Plan
Other Topics
Attachment 2**

Item 1 - Manual Actions:

SPLB draft Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) and forward to RORP	February 2003 (Complete)
Document the appropriateness of symptom-based fire protection procedures	March 2003 (Complete)
Prepare a proposed Rulemaking Plan	March 2003 (Complete)
Prepare an Interim Enforcement Policy Statement to support rulemaking	March 2003 (Complete)

Item 2 - Licensing Basis:

Engage NEI on potential incentives to promote adoption of NFPA 805 (e.g., credit for self-assessments).	March 2003 (Complete)
Consider a risk-informed approach to establish licensing basis issue priorities.	April 2003 (Complete- Issues prioritized in Protocol)

Item 3 - Old Design Issues and Emerging Issues:

Collect emerging issues being developed in ROP	Continuous (See Attach. 4)
Enhance management controls on the inspector and technical staff interface	November 2002 (Complete)
Train DLPM on the pilot TIA process with NRC stakeholders	December 2002 (Complete)
Establish periodic meeting schedule with NEI to discuss and prioritize emerging issues	January 2003 (Complete)
Consider a risk-informed approach as a threshold to identify emerging issues	February 2003 (Complete)

Item 4 - Application of SDP:

Support SDP improvement program	As needed
Update fire frequency data base	October 2002 (Complete)
Obtain SDP level training for selected FP engineers	April 2003
Conduct table top exercises on draft FP SDP	May 2003
Issue revised FP SDP guidance	July 2003

Conduct training on revised FP SDP	August 2003
Develop fire brigade SDP for ROP use	December 2003

Item 5 - Use of Compensatory Measures (Predecisional)

Determine the appropriateness of fire watches being used for non-safety compliance issues	April 2003
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Item 6 - RES - Quantitative Fire Hazards Evaluation and Fire Barriers:

Develop quantitative fire hazards analysis tools	Ongoing
Complete fire barrier test plan (Hemyc and MT) and transfer to RES	January 2003 (Complete)

Item 7 - LRA Scoping Fire Protection Equipment:

Publish License Renewal Application (LRA) review criteria for scoping fire protection as an ISG.	November 2002 (Complete)
Refer transferred ISG license renewal issues to RLEP	January 2003 (Complete)

Item 8 - Advanced Reactors:

Revise SRP 9.5.1- Concurrence Cycle	July 2003
Revise SRP 9.5.1- Issuance	December 2003

Item 9 - FPIP Development:

Complete the FPIP and obtain management concurrence	November 2002 (Complete)
Meet with stakeholders to discuss FPIP in workshop	November 2002 (Complete)

Item 10 - Risk Informed Rule:

Review and comment on NEI implementation guidance for NFPA 805 rulemaking	November 2002 (Complete)
Support NFPA 805 rulemaking	DSSA as needed (Complete)
Issue Proposed Rule for Public comment	November 2002 (DRIP Lead) (Complete)
75 day comment period on Proposed Rule ends	January 2003 (DRIP Lead) (Complete)
All comments resolved with OGC assistance	April 2003 (DRIP Lead)
DRIP issues draft final package for internal NRR review and ADM review	June 2003 (DRIP Lead)

DRIP issues final rule package for inter-office concurrence	July 2003 (DRIP Lead)
ACRS and CRGR briefings	August 2003 (DRIP Lead)
NRR OD concurrence obtained	September 2003 (DRIP Lead)
SRM issued after Commission vote	TBD (DRIP Lead)
Final Rule published in Federal Register	January 2004 (DRIP Lead)

**PUBLIC MEETINGS IN FIRE PROTECTION MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS 1998- 2002
ATTACHMENT 3**

SUBJECT AREA	DATE	PURPOSE / COMMENTS
Circuit Analysis	July 1, 1998	Presentation to ACRS on post-fire safe shutdown circuit analysis.
	July 23, 1998	NRC workshop for Public and Industry on post-fire safe shutdown circuit analysis (National attendance by public and industry).
	December 14, 1998	Meeting with NEI in fire-induced circuit failure assumptions for various cable configurations.
	March 25, 1999	NRC staff/NEI meeting to discuss fire-induced circuit failures.
	May 3/5, 1999	NEI Fire Protection Forum, Public Meeting. NRC discusses issue resolution and status. NEI discusses industry activity. RES presents their research on issue. Cleveland, Ohio.
	August 18/19, 1999	Meeting with BWROG to discuss circuit analysis issues.
	October 18/20, 1999	NEI Fire Protection Forum, Public Meeting. NRC discusses Resolution status. NEI presented Assessment Methodology, St. Peterburg, Florida.
	December 20, 1999	Meeting to discuss status of the NEI post-fire safe shutdown circuit analysis methodology development efforts (NEI-00-01).
	April 13, 2000	NRC staff/NEI meeting to discuss NEI 00-01, Rev A.
	May 25, 2000	Tele-conference with NEI to discuss preliminary staff comment on NEI 00-01-Rev A.
	July 21, 2000	Meeting with NEI to discuss Sandia Report, "Circuit Analysis, Failure Modes and Likelihood Analysis" and relates circuit analysis technical issues.
	July 26, 2000	NRC staff/BWROG/NEI on post-fire safe shutdown circuit analysis.

	October 3, 2000	NRC staff/NEI meeting on (Circuit Analysis) fire test protocols.
	February 4-7, 2001	NRC staff presentation on fire-induced circuit failure analysis, NEI Fire Protection Information Forum (General Industry in attendance). Also, NEI status presentation on NEI 00-01.
	August 8, 2001	NRC staff/NEI meeting to discuss industry progress on circuit analysis resolution activities.
	October 22/25, 2001	NEI Fire Protection Information Forum, NRC presents status of fire-protection issues. Public Meeting, Clearwater, FL.
	June 4, 2002	NEI and NRR staff present their view of draft NEI 00-01, Rev C. to ACRS Fire Protection Sub- Committee (Public Meeting, TWFN).
	August 29/30, 2002	NEI Fire Protection Information Forum. NEI presents the results of pilot use of NEI 00-01. NRC staff present comments on the NEI 00-01 and NRC resolution plan.
	October 22, 2002	NEI explained the NEI 00-01, Rev-D to the staff (Public Meeting, OWFN).
	February 19, 2003	The NRC hosted an all-day Facilitated Workshop to discuss risk-informing the associated circuit inspection portion of the fire protection triennial inspections. The meeting was facilitated by an OGC representative. The Workshop was attended by representatives from licensees, industry groups (NEI, EPRI), consulting firms, national laboratories (SNL, BNL), RES, Region 1 and NRR.
	March 20, 2003	Presentation of the "Proposed Risk Informed Inspection Guidance for Post-fire Safe-Shutdown Associated Circuit Inspection" at regularly scheduled IIPB/NEI meeting.
805 Rulemaking	January 16, 2002	Continue discussion of the NEI implementing guidance for NFPA 805.
	February 12, 2002	Continue discussion of the NEI implementing guidance NFPA 805.

	February 26, 2002	Continue discussion of NEI implementing guidance for NFPA 805.
	April 23, 2002	Continue discussions of issues raised in the NEI letter of April 9, 2002 concerning fire protection rulemaking language to adopt NFPA 805.
	August 1, 2002	Continue the discussion of NEI implementing guidance for NFPA 805.
Manual Action	June 20, 2002	Follow-up discussion of May 16, 2002-letter on the use of manual actions to achieve a safe shutdown, to satisfy the requirement of Section III.G.2 of Appendix R to 10CFR50.
	August 21, 2002	SPLB met with ET and received direction to proceed with rulemaking.
	August 29, 2002	SPLB presented description of "feasible manual actions" to public at NEI Fire Protection Information Forum in Seattle, WA.
	November 6, 2002	SPLB presented description of "feasible manual actions" to public at Licensing Workshop at Washington Terrace Hotel, D.C.
Fire Protection SDP	May 23, 2002	Public meeting to discuss FP SDP revision.
	July 9, 2002	Public meeting to discuss FP SDP revision.
	August 14, 2002	Working Group meeting to discuss Phase 2 Fire Protection SDP methodology.
	September 4, 2002	The NRC staff and NEI discussed separate Phase 1 screening alternatives. Eleven issues for improving Phase 2 were discussed and task leaders were assigned action plans for short and long term fixes to be presented at a workshop in November.
	September 14, 2002	An update of all overall SDP revision effort was presented at the FP Inspector Workshop in RIII. Three issues (i.e., fire scenario development, and fire barriers) were discussed with inspectors to mine resolution alternatives.

	November 2002	A public workshop to discuss new FP SDP methodology.
Fire Protection Improvement Plan (FPIP)	November 5, 2002	The SPLB Branch Chief briefs NRR Associate Director on the FPIP
	November 6, 2002	The FPIP is presented at the NEI licensing forum at the Washington Terrace.
	November 20, 2002	The NRR Office Director is briefed on the FPIP by the SPLB Branch Chief.
	January 15, 2003	NRC staff and NEI representatives held a public meeting to discuss FPIP updates and the management of emerging issues.
	March 18, 2003	NRC staff and NEI representatives held a public meeting to continue the discussion on FP emerging issues.

**FIRE PROTECTION EMERGING ISSUES
ATTACHMENT 4**

EMERGING ISSUE	STATUS
Incentives for adopting NFPA 805 (ADAMS ML030370027)	Staff/NEI March 2003 agenda item
Interim inspection guidance for manual actions. (ADAMS ML030370027)	Staff/NEI March 2003 agenda item
Scoping for license renewal is a current licensing basis issue under Part 50. Reference item 7, attachment 2. (ADAMS ML030370027)	Staff/NEI April 2003 agenda item
Seek Region feedback on NEI concerns with inspectors in the areas of safe-shutdowns and the regulatory process. (ADAMS ML030370027)	Staff/NEI March 2003 agenda item
Clarify the process and documentation necessary to provide fire-protection issue closure. (ADAMS ML030370027)	Staff/NEI April 2003 agenda item
Heat collector sprinkler heads. (ADAMS ML023030065)	SPLB representatives attended a public meeting at the Brunswick site in February 2003.
Evaluate results of first round of triennial inspections. (ADAMS ML030370027)	Staff/NEI April 2003 agenda item