

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

April 14, 1997

**NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 94-14, SUPPLEMENT 1: FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR BIENNIAL
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND
NOTIFICATION TO THE NRC OF
CHANGES IN LICENSED
OPERATOR MEDICAL
CONDITIONS**

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power and non-power reactors and all licensed reactor operators and senior reactor operators.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this information notice to remind addressees to notify the NRC of changes in a licensed operator's physical or mental condition, as determined by a physician, that cause the operator to fail to meet the medical requirements of Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 55). It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to ensure proper reporting. However, suggestions contained in this information notice are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Background

On February 24, 1994, Information Notice (IN) 94-14, "Failure To Implement Requirements for Biennial Medical Examinations and Notification to the NRC of Changes in Licensed Operator Medical Conditions," was issued. The information notice was issued to alert addressees to recent problems associated with (1) ensuring the restrictions or limitations or an operator's license were followed and (2) reporting changes in an operator's medical condition. Included in the information notice were examples of facility licensees that failed to identify or report when the eyesight of licensed operators did not meet the medical standards described in American National Standards Institute/American Nuclear Society (ANSI/ANS) 3.4-1983, "Medical Certification and Monitoring of Personnel Requiring Operator Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants."

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update on
4/23/97

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Discussion

Subsequent to the issuance of IN 94-14, a 1996 audit of licensed operator medical conditions revealed an unexpectedly low number of license conditions associated with hypertension or high blood pressure for operators licensed by the Region II office in Atlanta, Georgia. Followup inspections at the Brunswick, Catawba, Summer, Vogtle, and Watts Bar nuclear plants and telephone discussions with the staffs of the Surry, North Anna, Oconee, and McGuire plants, revealed that some medical staffs were not aware that hypertension above the standards of ANSI/ANS-3.4, even if controlled by medication or diet and monitored by the facility physician, must be reported to the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 55.25 for evaluation and, if appropriate, a license amendment. In 10 CFR 55.25, the requirements specify that the NRC be notified when a licensed operator's medical condition no longer meets the original licensing standard and that an appropriate certification form be submitted if the facility licensee is requesting a conditional license to accommodate the change in the operator's physical or mental condition. Subsequent to the above inspections, Region II received amendment requests to place hypertension-related compensating requirements on 35 operator licenses, as well as requests for license restrictions for 12 other types of medical conditions, as compared to only one such request in 1995. NRC IN 91-08, "Medical Examination for Licensed Operators" (issued February 5, 1991), provides additional information on this subject.

This information notice reminds facility licensees that whenever a licensed operator fails to meet any of the medical standards delineated in the ANSI/ANS-3.4 version the facility has committed to, it should be reported to the appropriate regional office on NRC Form 396, "Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee," for review. This submittal will include a copy of **all supporting medical information** and recommended wording for the conditional license to be issued to the affected operator.

This information notice requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about this notice, please call one of the technical contacts listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.



Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

Attachments filed in Jacket.
Technical contacts:

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LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
97-18	Problems Identified During Maintenance Rule Baseline Inspections	04/14/97	All holders of OLs, CPs, and decommissioning-stage licenses for nuclear power reactors
97-17	Cracking of Vertical Welds in the Core Shroud and Degraded Repair	04/04/97	All holders of OLs or CPs for boiling-water reactors
97-16	Preconditioning of Plant Structures, Systems, and Components Before ASME Code Inservice Testing or Technical Specification Surveillance Testing	04/04/97	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors
97-15	Reporting of Errors and Changes in Large-Break Loss-of-Coolant Accident Evaluation Models of Fuel Vendors and Compliance with 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)	04/04/97	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors and all reactor fuel vendors
97-14	Assessment of Spent Fuel Pool Cooling	03/28/97	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors
97-13	Deficient Conditions Associated with Protective Coatings at Nuclear Power Plants	03/24/97	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

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original signed by M.M. Slosson
 Thomas T. Martin, Director
 Division of Reactor Program Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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