

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

November 30, 1994

NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER 94-16: REVISION OF NRC CORE INSPECTION PROGRAM
FOR ANNUAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this administrative letter to inform addressees of a change in the NRC inspection program which reduces the frequency of NRC inspection of emergency exercises and the need for the NRC to request advance information on exercise scenarios from licensees. This administrative letter does not transmit or imply any new or changed requirements or staff positions. No specific action or written response is required.

Background

The NRC issued Inspection Manual Chapter 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program -- Operations Phase," to establish the inspection policy for the light-water operating reactor inspection program. The program consists of three major program elements: (1) core inspections, (2) discretionary inspections, and (3) area of emphasis inspections. The core inspections provide a minimum examination of licensee activities to confirm the adequacy of licensee performance and to identify potential problems in their early stages. Appendix A to Manual Chapter 2515 prescribes the core inspection procedures and the frequency of their performance.

Description of Circumstance

On April 15, 1994, NRC revised Appendix A to Manual Chapter 2515 to change the frequency for performing Inspection Procedure (IP) 82301, "Evaluation of Exercises for Power Reactors," and IP 82302, "Review of Exercise Objectives and Scenarios for Power Reactors," from annual to biennial. The NRC also added IP 71750, "Plant Support Activities," to the core inspection program and specified that it be performed once each systematic assessment of licensee performance period.

Discussion

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, (10 CFR Part 50) Appendix E, Section IV.F.2, requires each licensee at each site to annually exercise its emergency plan. Section IV.F.3 requires each licensee at each

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site to do a biennial exercise of its emergency plan with offsite authorities in such a manner that the emergency plans of offsite authorities such as State and local government are also exercised. The NRC conducts inspections using IP 82301 to assess the adequacy of: (1) the licensee emergency response program, (2) the implementation of the emergency plan, (3) the emergency implementing procedures, and (4) the training program for emergency response. As part of this inspection, the NRC typically reviews exercise objectives and scenarios as outlined in Exhibit 1 of IP 82302.

The April 15, 1994, revision to Appendix A of Manual Chapter 2515 changed the required frequency for conducting IP 82301 and IP 82302 as part of the core inspection program from annual to biennial. The biennial performance of these inspection procedures is intended to normally coincide with the biennial exercise of the licensee emergency plan with State and local governments.

The revised frequency for performance of these NRC inspections does not change the requirement in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2 that licensees annually exercise their emergency plans nor does it affect the schedule and conduct of those exercises. The NRC resident inspector may observe the annual exercise using IP 71750. Also, the NRC may perform a regional initiative inspection if NRC inspection or licensee performance indicate that there are weaknesses in the licensee emergency preparedness program or that there has been a decline in licensee program effectiveness.

Licensees continue to be required to exercise their emergency plans annually. However, the NRC staff will not normally request advance information on the objectives and scenarios for an exercise not intended to be the biennial exercise with the full participation of State and local offsite authorities.

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



Brian K. Grimes, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical contact: Daniel M. Barss, NRR
(301) 504-2922

Attachment:
List of Recently Issued NRC Administrative Letters

Attachment filed in Jacket

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTERS

Administrative Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
94-15	Reorganization of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation	10/06/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear reactors.
94-14	Distribution of Sup- plement to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards"	09/22/94	All holders of operator and senior operator licenses at nuclear power reactors and all power reactor licensees.
94-13	Access to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin Board Systems	09/13/94	All NRC licensees.
94-12	Operator Licensing National Examination Schedule	09/12/94	All holders of OLs or CPs
94-11	Request for Voluntary Comment on the Pilot Program for NRC Recognition of Good Performance by Nuclear Power Plants	09/07/94	All holders of OLs for nuclear power reactors.
94-10	Distribution of NUREG- 1478, "Non-Power Reactor Operator Licensing Examiner Standards"	08/17/94	All holders of operator or senior operator licenses at test and research reactor licensees.
94-09	Changes to the "Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Work Place Drug Testing Programs"	08/04/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors, and all licensees authorized to possess or transport Category I nuclear materials.
94-08	Consolidation of the NRC Region IV and Region V Offices	7/13/94	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear reactors.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

site to do a biennial exercise of its emergency plan with offsite authorities in such a manner that the emergency plans of offsite authorities such as State and local government are also exercised. The NRC conducts inspections using IP 82301 to assess the adequacy of: (1) the licensee emergency response program, (2) the implementation of the emergency plan, (3) the emergency implementing procedures, and (4) the training program for emergency response. As part of this inspection, the NRC typically reviews exercise objectives and scenarios as outlined in Exhibit 1 of IP 82302.

The April 15, 1994, revision to Appendix A of Manual Chapter 2515 changed the required frequency for conducting IP 82301 and IP 82302 as part of the core inspection program from annual to biennial. The biennial performance of these inspection procedures is intended to normally coincide with the biennial exercise of the licensee emergency plan with State and local governments.

The revised frequency for performance of these NRC inspections does not change the requirement in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2 that licensees annually exercise their emergency plans nor does it affect the schedule and conduct of those exercises. The NRC resident inspector may observe the annual exercise using IP 71750. Also, the NRC may perform a regional initiative inspection if NRC inspection or licensee performance indicate that there are weaknesses in the licensee emergency preparedness program or that there has been a decline in licensee program effectiveness.

Licensees continue to be required to exercise their emergency plans annually. However, the NRC staff will not normally request advance information on the objectives and scenarios for an exercise not intended to be the biennial exercise with the full participation of State and local offsite authorities.

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Original signed by
Brian K. Grimes, Director Brian K. Grimes
Division of Operating Reactor Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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* See Previous concurrence

OFFICE	PEPB:DRSS:NRR	C/DRSS:PEPB:NRR	D/DRSS:NRR	
NAME	DMBarss*	RLEmch*	JACalvo*	
DATE	09/28/94	09/28/94	09/29/94	

OFFICE	TECH EDITOR	OGCB:DORS:NRR	C/OGCB:DORS:NRR	D/DOSS:NRR
NAME	JMain*	JLBirmingham*	ELDoolittle*	BKGrimes
DATE	09/23/94	09/27/94	09/30/94	11/25/94

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OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FILE NAME: 94-16.AL

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DATE	09/28/94	09/28/94	09/28/94

OFFICE	OEGB:DOPS	SC/OEGB:DOPS	C/DOPS
NAME	RJKiessel*	RDennig*	AECaffee*
DATE	11/02/94	11/03/94	11/07/94

OFFICE	TECH EDITOR	OGCB:DORS:NRR	C/OGCB:DORS:NRR	D/DOPS:NRR
NAME	JMain*	JLBirmingham*	ELDoolittle*	BKGrimes
DATE	09/23/94	09/29/94	09/30/94	11/ /94

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FILE NAME: S:\DOPS SEC\RED CORE.AL
Request for comment by the four regions resulted in one response from Region II. Region II responded that the notice was acceptable as written.

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

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DATE	09/28/94	09/28/94	09/28/94

OFFICE	OECD:DOPS	SC/OECD:DOPS	C/OECD
NAME	RJKiessel <i>RK</i>	RDennig <i>(JBA)</i>	AEChaffee <i>AE</i>
DATE	11/2/94	11/3/94	11/7/94 <i>VSB</i>

OFFICE	TECH EDITOR	OGCB:DOPS:NRR	C/OGCB:DOPS:NRR	D/DOPS:NRR
NAME	JMain*	JLBirmingham*	ELDoolittle*	BKGrimes
DATE	09/23/94	09/29/94	09/30/94	11/ /94

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DATE	09/28/94	09/28/94	09/29/94

OFFICE	TECH EDITOR	OGCB:DORS:NRR	C/OGCB:DORS:NRR	D/DORS:NRR
NAME	JMain <i>JLB</i>	JLBirmingham	ELDoolittle	BKGrimes
DATE	09/23/94	09/27/94 <i>JLB</i>	10/5/94	10/ /94

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FILE NAME: G:\RED_CORE.JLB

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DATE	09/28/94	09/28/94	09/29/94	

OFFICE	TECH EDITOR	OGCB:DORS:NRR	C/OGCB:DORS:NRR	D/DORS:NRR
NAME	JMain <i>JTB</i>	JLBirmingham <i>JTB</i>	ELDoolittle <i>9/30</i>	BKGrimes
DATE	09/23/94	09/27/94	10/30/94	10/ /94

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