



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 19, 1992

TO: ALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT APPLICANTS AND LICENSEES

SUBJECT: COMPILATION OF THE CURRENT LICENSING BASIS: REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN PILOT PROGRAM (GENERIC LETTER 92-03)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this letter to solicit the industry's participation in a voluntary pilot program to assess the advantages and disadvantages of compiling the current licensing basis (CLB). We request that only interested applicants and licensees respond to this letter. In issuing this letter, the NRC is imposing no new requirements or staff positions.

BACKGROUND

The concept of the CLB was first introduced in the regulations, 10 CFR 50.54(f), as a result of considerations in the development of the NRC's backfit rule. The CLB again became an issue in the Commission's deliberations on extending the licenses for plants beyond the original contemplated design life. In 1991, the Commission adopted the plant life extension rule, 10 CFR Part 54, which became effective on January 13, 1992. A definition of CLB was set forth in Section 54.3. Although set out in Part 54, that definition represents the staff's understanding of the scope of the CLB and should be applicable to all reactor licensees.

To further understand the advantages and disadvantages of compiling the CLB, the Commission has directed the NRC staff to solicit the industry's participation in a pilot program in which a small number of representative¹ licensees would voluntarily compile their CLB and advise the NRC on the effort. As part of the pilot program, the staff would assess the usefulness of the compilation with respect to the NRC's regulatory activities.

The proposed effort also relates to the industry's effort to implement design basis reconstitution. Although these programs should include reconstituting that portion of the CLB relating to the design, they do not address a significant portion of the CLB, including programmatic areas such as quality assurance, training, and maintenance.

Although compiling the CLB may require a significant amount of resources, the staff expects that the licensee will thereby reduce the resources it will need to devote in the future to (1) conducting document searches needed to support regulatory oversight, (2) filing license amendment requests, (3) making changes pursuant to Section 50.59, and (4) evaluating backfits pursuant to Section 50.109.

¹A representative sample might include (1) a facility that was licensed in the early 1970s, (2) several facilities that were licensed between 1975 and 1985, and (3) a facility licensed within the last 5 years.

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March 19, 1992

Pilot Program Participation

Participation in the pilot program is voluntary. Licensees wishing to participate should respond within 60 days of the date of this letter. Although the licensees volunteering need not provide details and schedules at this time, the staff desires to complete the pilot program compilation within a reasonable time. The licensee may choose to compile the CLB as a single set of documents in one location or by a system which provides a reference to documents that can be retrieved easily from several locations. Volunteers should select an approach, scope, and format that will be most useful to them. If the staff finds sufficient interest among licensees on these or other matters, it will conduct a workshop with those considering participating.

The staff anticipates that licensees will use the CLB during their participation in the pilot program. During this time, the NRC staff will conduct audits with the participants to determine the usefulness of the compiled CLB. The fees for this audit will not be collected from participants under 10 CFR Part 170, but will be included in the general base fee under 10 CFR Part 171. In addition, where the licensee identifies a non-willful failure to meet a licensing commitment which could subject the licensee to enforcement action, it is our intent to exercise enforcement discretion, provided the licensee has taken prompt corrective action consistent with the provisions in the enforcement policy for non-cited violations. More significant violations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If there are any questions on this matter or you have an interest in attending or participating in a workshop, please contact the Technical Contact or your NRR licensing project manager. Licensees who wish to participate in the pilot program should address their responses to the attention of the NRC Document Control Desk.

This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget Clearance Number 3150-0011, which expires May 31, 1994. The estimated average number of burden hours is 10 person hours for each licensee's response, including those needed to assess the request and to respond to the generic letter. This estimate of the average number of burden hours pertains only to the identified response-related matters and does not include the time needed to develop the CLB. Comments on the accuracy of this estimate and suggestions to reduce the burden may be directed to Ronald Minsk, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0011), NEOB-3019, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503, and to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Information and Records Management Branch (MNBB-7714), Division of Information Support Services, Office of Information and Resources Management, Washington, DC 20555.

March 19, 1992

Since the generic letter does not contain any new or revised regulatory requirements, the Backfit Rule, 10 CFR 50.109, does not apply.

Sincerely,


James G. Partlow, Associate Director
for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact:
D. Wigginton, NRR
(301) 504-1301

Enclosure:
List of Recently Issued
Generic Letters

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED GENERIC LETTERS

Generic Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued To
92-01 REVISION 1	REACTOR VESSEL STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY, 10CFR50.54(f)	03/06/92	ALL HOLDERS OF OP LICENSES OR CONST. PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR PWR PLANTS (EXCEPT YANKEE ATOMIC FOR YANKEE NUC PWR STA.)
92-02	RESOLUTION OF GENERIC ISSUE 79, "UNANALYZED REACTOR VESSEL (PWR) THERMAL STRESS DURING NATURAL CONVECTION COOLDOWN	03/06/92	ALL HOLDERS OF OP LICENSES OF CONST. PERMITS FOR PWRs
92-01	REACTOR VESSEL STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY, 10CFR50.54(f)	NOT ISSUED	ALL HOLDERS OF OP LICENSES OR CONST. PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR PWR PLANTS (EXCEPT YANKEE ATOMIC FOR YANKEE NUC PWR STA.)
*89-10 SUPPLEMENT 4	CONSIDERATION OF VALVE MISPOSITIONING IN BWRs	02/14/92	ALL LICENSEES OF OP NUC PWR PLANTS AND HOLDERS OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS OR PWR PLANTS
*NOTE: 89-10 Supp. 4, Accession No. 9202070037 has been changed to 9202250311.			
88-01 SUPPLEMENT 1	MRC POSITION ON INTER-GRANULAR STRESS CORROSION CRACKING (IGSCC) IN BWR AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL PIPING	02/04/92	ALL LICENSEES OF OP BWRs & HOLDERS OF CONST. PERMITS FOR BWRs
91-19	INFO TO LICENSEES RE: NEW TELEPHONE NOS. AT NRC WHITE FLINT NORTH BLDG.	12/19/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OP LICENSES OR CONST. PERMITS FOR NPRs
91-18	INFO TO LICENSEES RE TWO NRC INSP MANUAL SECTIONS ON RESOLUTION OF DEGRADED AND NONCONFORMING CONDITIONS AND ON OPERABILITY	11/07/91	ALL NUCLEAR PWR REACTOR LICENSEES AND APPLICANTS
91-17	GENERIC SAFETY ISSUE 29, "BOLTING DEGRADATION OR FAILURE IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS"	10/17/91	ALL HOLDERS OF OP LICENSES OR CONST PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
91-16	LICENSED OPERATORS' AND OTHER NUCLEAR FACILITY PERSONNEL FITNESS FOR DUTY	10/03/91	HOLDERS OF LIC OR CONSTR. PERMITS FOR NUC PWR/NPRs AND ALL LICENSED OPERATORS & SENIOR OPERATORS

March 19, 1992

Since the generic letter does not contain any new or revised regulatory requirements, the Backfit Rule, 10 CFR 50.109, does not apply.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED:

James G. Partlow, Associate Director
for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact:
D. Wigginton, NRR
(301) 504-1301

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List of Recently Issued
Generic Letters

DISTRIBUTION:

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PD4-1 Reading
DWigginton
JLarkins

NRC PDR
PNoonan
CRossi
JLieberman

BBoger

Reviewed by J.Main, Technical Editor, on February 12, 1992

* See previous concurrence

OFC	LA:PD4-1	PM:PD4-1*	D:PD4-1*	AD:DRPW45*	D:DRPW*
NAME	PNoonan	DWigginton	JLarkins	MVirgilio	BBoger
DATE	3/ /92	3/16/92	3/ /92	1/14/92	1/14/92
OFC	DOEA*	OE*	ADP:NRR*	DD:NRR	OGC*
NAME	CRossi	JLieberman	JPartlow	FMiraglia	
DATE	1/22/92	2/13/92	3/12/92	3/1/92	3/16/92

Document Name: CBLcomp.GL

If there are any questions on this matter or you have an interest in attending or participating in a workshop, please contact the Technical Contact or your NRR licensing project manager. Licensees who wish to participate in the pilot program should address their responses to the attention of the NRC Document Control Desk.

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Since the generic letter does not contain any new or revised regulatory requirements, the Backfit Rule, 10 CFR 50.109, does not apply.

Sincerely,

James G. Partlow, Associate Director
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OFC	LA:PD4-1 <i>OK</i>	PM:PD4-1 *	D:PD4-1 <i>OK</i>	AD:DRPW45*	D:DRPW*
NAME	PNoonan	DWigginton	JLarkins	MVirgilio	BBoger
DATE	3/11/92	3/ /92	3/ /92	1/14/92	1/14/92
OFC	DOEA*	OE*	ADP:NRR <i>OK</i>	DD:NRR	OGC <i>no formal objection changes noted.</i>
NAME	CRossi	JLieberman	JPartlow	FMiraglia	<i>5 Theby</i>
DATE	1/22/92	2/13/92	3/12/92	3/ /92	3/16/92

Document Name: CBLcomp.GL

changes made: DW 3/16/92

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NAME	PNoonan	DWigginton	JLarkins	MVirgilio	BBoger
DATE	3/16/92	3/16/92	3/ /92	1/14/92	1/14/92
OFC	DOEA*	OE*	ADP:NRR*	DD:NRR	OGC <i>W</i>
NAME	CRossi	JLieberman	JPartlow	FMiraglia	<i>W</i>
DATE	1/22/92	2/13/92	3/12/92	3/ /92	3/17/92

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Services, Office of Information Resources Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0011), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-3019, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

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NAME	PNoonan	DWigginton	JLarkins	MVirgilio	BBoger
DATE	2/12/92	2/12/92	2/13/92	1/14/92	1/14/92
OFC	DOEA*	OE <i>JL</i>	ADP:NRR	DD:NRR	
NAME	CRossi	JLieberman	JPartlow	FMiraglia	
DATE	1/22/92	2/13/92	2/ /92	2/ /92	

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Reviewed by JMain Qm, Technical Editor, on 2/12/92

* See previous concurrence

OFC	LA:PD4-1	PM:PD4-1	D:PD4-1	AD:DRPW45*	D:DRPW*
NAME	PNoonan	DWigginton	JLarkins	MVirgilio	BBoger
DATE	2/ /92	2/ /92	2/ /92	1/14/92	1/14/92
OFC	DOEA*	OE	ADP:NRR	DD:NRR	
NAME	CRossi	JLieberman	JPartlow	FMiraglia	
DATE	1/22/92	2/ /92	2/ /92	2/ /92	

Document Name: CBLcomp.GL2

