

DISCUSSION PAPER FOR MEETING WITH NEI
AUGUST 27, 2003

New Process for Reviewing
License Renewal Applications

To improve the effectiveness of the license renewal review, the NRC staff is developing a new process for reviewing license renewal applications. The purpose of the new process is to enable the staff to review multiple applications at the same time and to issue renewed licenses within 22 months.

The new process maximizes the efficiencies inherent in the Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report by using teams to perform on-site consistency-with-GALL audits. These teams would also verify whether other programs and reviews, which are indicated by the applicant, are consistent with programs and reviews previously approved by the staff.

The new process also includes on-site visits by technical reviewers to minimize the time required for applicants to respond to the staff's questions. The on-site visits would allow technical reviewers to review the on-site basis and implementing documents that support information in the license renewal application.

The new process has the potential to reduce staff resources, but would not necessarily result in a reduction of resources or time necessary to complete the review. The staff is committed to stay within the budgeted resource allocation for each application. The staff plans to implement this new process beginning with the license renewal application for the Joseph M. Farley, Units 1 and 2, application, which is scheduled to be submitted on September 15, 2003. Because the application submittals of Farley, ANO-2, and DC Cook are so close together, they will be considered the pilot for this process. For the new process to be successful, agreement and full participation of the applicants will be necessary.

In proposing this new process, the staff assumes the following:

- The format and content of the license renewal application (LRA) is consistent with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) document "U.S. Nuclear Industry's Proposed Standard License Renewal Application Format Package," which the NRC staff commented and concurred on in a letter dated April 7, 2003.
- The LRA identifies the aging management reviews (AMRs) and aging management programs (AMPs) that are consistent with those in the GALL report.
- The applicant identifies the AMRs and AMPs that are consistent with those approved by the staff in previous safety evaluation reports.
- The applicant will support the on-site consistency-with-GALL audits. The on-site supporting documents describing the 10 attributes of AMPs will be in a format similar to the GALL format.
- The applicant will provide timely and accurate responses to staff questions and requests for additional information (RAIs).

- The project manager will manage the staff's review of the application and the scheduling of audits and site visits.
- The technical review teams will conduct site visits as needed.

The new process is expected to be more efficient than the previous review process. The staff will be unable to quantify the efficiencies of the new process until several pilot reviews have been completed. However, the staff believes that the following new activities are potential sources of efficiencies.

- Consistency-with-GALL Audits: Completing the audit of AMPs and AMRs will focus the staff's review on items that are different from GALL and previously approved staff positions.
- Site visits: Allow technical reviewers to obtain clarification and justification of information in the LRA, to identify information necessary to complete the staff evaluations, and to prepare RAIs. The information needed for the staff findings will be submitted on the docket.
- Permits intensive continual dialog between the staff and the applicant to review and resolve items.

The proposed nominal schedule for completing the review of a license renewal application using the new review process is provided below. The project manager may modify the schedule based on the need of the audit teams and reviewers to gather the information necessary to write the safety evaluation report or on the ability of the applicant to support the site visits.

PROPOSED LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

Revision Date: August 8, 2003

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Receive LRA. Meet with Applicant . Begin Acceptance Review.					1 st Consistency Audit		2 nd Consistency Audit

Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
	S&S Methodology On-site Visit		Regional S&S Inspection	Send Questions to Applicant	1 st <u>NOT</u> Consistent with GALL On-site Visit	Issues RAIs .	

Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Optional 3 rd Consistency Audit	Send Questions to Applicant	2 nd <u>NOT</u> Consistent with GALL On-site Visit	Issue RAIs	Send Questions to Applicant	3 rd <u>NOT</u> Consistent with GALL On-site Visit	Issue RAIs	Send Questions to Applicant

Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32
4 th <u>NOT</u> Consistent with GALL On-site Visit	Last Date to Issue RAIs	1 st Regional AMP Inspection		2 nd Regional AMP Inspection			

Week 73	Week 74	Week 75	Week 76	Week 77	Week 78	Week 79	Week 80
				ACRS Full Committee Meeting			

Week 81	Week 82	Week 83	Week 84	Week 85	Week 86	Week 87	Week 88
							Issue renewed license <u>NOT</u> subject to hearing, if approved