

FINAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT  
FOR  
FIRE PROTECTION

10 CFR 50.48 AND APPENDIX R

DESCRIPTION OF THE INFORMATION COLLECTION

10 CFR 50.48 requires certain provisions for fire protection in operating and permanently shutdown nuclear power plants. This regulation upgrades fire protection at nuclear power plants licensed to operate prior to January 1, 1979, by requiring resolution of certain contested generic issues in fire protection safety evaluation reports. The program on which this part is dependent is Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior to January 1, 1979," which makes requirements of certain items of fire protection guidance that have been used by the staff since the Browns Ferry fire on March 22, 1975, to evaluate the adequacy of fire protection programs at operating nuclear power plants.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Need for and Practical Utility of the Collection of Information

Section 50.48(a) requires that each operating nuclear power plant have a fire protection plan that satisfies Criterion 3 of Appendix A to 10 CFR 50. This fire protection plan must describe the overall fire protection program for the facility, identify the various positions within the licensee's organization that are responsible for the program, state the authorities that are delegated to each of these positions to implement those responsibilities, and outline the plans for fire protection, fire detection and suppression capability, and limitation of fire damage. The plan must also describe specific features necessary to implement the program described above, such as administrative controls and personnel requirements for fire prevention and manual fire suppression activities, automatic and manually operated fire detection and suppression systems, and the means to limit damage to structures, systems, or components important to safety so that the capability to safely shut down the plant is ensured. Licensees shall retain the fire protection plan and each change to the plan as a record until the Commission terminates the reactor license and shall retain each superseded revision of the procedures for three years from the date it was superseded. These requirements will not affect nuclear power plants that were licensed to operate prior to January 1, 1979, and that already have the Appendix R requirements identified in their safety evaluation reports. Section 50.48(a) does not affect presently licensed plants since they have already completed these requirements with their approved fire protection programs. Section 50.48(a) will apply to new licensees as their applications are submitted to the NRC. No special requirement for a format or form is imposed with this rule. Each licensee is free to develop the method and forms that best suits its individual operation. No new applications are anticipated in the next 3 years.

Sections 50.48 (c), and (d) have been deleted from the Code of Federal Regulations because all scheduler requirements of these sections have long been implemented and need not be retained. Section 50.48 (e) has been deleted from the Code of Federal Regulations because license conditions pertaining to fire protection have long been implemented at all plants. Consequently, the deletion of Sections 50.48 (c), (d), and (e) did not result in burden reduction.

Section 50.48(f) requires licensees that have submitted 50.82(a)(1) certifications to maintain a fire protection program to address the potential for fires which could cause the release or spread of radioactive materials.

Section 50.48(f)(2) requires that the fire protection program be assessed by the licensee on a regular basis and revised, as appropriate, during decommissioning.

Section 50.48(f)(3) permits the licensee to make changes to the fire protection program without prior NRC approval if the changes do not reduce the effectiveness of fire protection for facilities, systems, and equipment which could result in a radiological hazard.

Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior to January 1, 1979," requires manual fire fighting capability at each plant. It states that a fire brigade of at least five persons on each shift shall be maintained at each nuclear power plant unit. In addition, Appendix R requires certain minimum levels of training for each brigade member, and training and drills for each brigade as a team. Appendix R also requires maintaining certain records of the training and drills provided for the brigades and brigade members. The recordkeeping requirements were agreed to by licensees as part of the license amendments that resulted from the staff's fire protection review of each plant. The two specific recordkeeping requirements, as committed to by licensees, are:

a. Section III.I.3.d

At 3-year intervals, a randomly selected unannounced drill must be critiqued by qualified individuals independent of the licensee's staff. A copy of the written report from such individuals shall be available for NRC review and shall be retained as a record as specified in Section III.I.4 of Appendix R.

b. Section III.I.4

Individual records of training provided to each fire brigade member, including drill critiques, shall be maintained for at least 3 years to ensure that each member receives training in all parts of the training program. These records of training shall be available for NRC review. Retraining or broadened training for fire fighting within buildings shall be scheduled for all those brigade members whose performance records show deficiencies. Requirements to establish procedures and controls contained in Appendix R, Sections II.C.7 and III.K, have been completed by all affected licensees.

2. Agency Use of Information

These records are required to enable the staff to evaluate the effectiveness of each licensee's fire protection plan, and specifically, each fire brigade training program and, thus, determine the expected effectiveness of each fire brigade to cope with any fire emergency which may occur.

3. Reduction of Burden Through Information Technology

There is no legal obstacle to the use of information technology. Moreover, NRC encourages its use; however, at the current time, no responses are submitted electronically.

4. Effort to Identify Duplication and Use Similar Information

The Information Requirements Control Automated System (IRCAS) was searched, and no duplication was found. Reactor power licensees are the only source for this information.

5. Effort to Reduce Small Business Burden

This regulation does not affect small business.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection is Not Conducted or is Conducted Less Frequently

This information is required so that the NRC can determine that fire training and drills are adequate in the event there is a fire emergency. It is collected only at the time of training and when drills are conducted. The frequency cannot be further reduced. The health and safety of the public could be affected adversely if this information is not available as specified.

7. Circumstances Which Justify Variation from OMB Guidelines

Licensees must retain the fire protection plan until the NRC terminates the license in order to ensure the health and safety of the public.

8. Consultations Outside the NRC

On November 1, 2002, a proposed rulemaking, "Voluntary Fire Protection Requirements for Light Water Reactors; Adoption of NFPA 805 as a Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Alternative," was published in the Federal Register (67 FR 66578) for comment. The rule would allow licensees to adopt industry guidance NFPA 805 as a risk-informed, performance-based alternative to the prescriptive requirements in Section 50.48 and Appendix R to Part 50. Eight sets of comments were received on the proposed rulemaking information collection requirements, which will be addressed in the final rulemaking.

The opportunity for public comment was published in the Federal Register on August 29, 2003 (68 FR 52063). No comments were received.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality of Information

Information identified as proprietary or confidential would be handled in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC regulations. However, this information is usually not submitted as confidential.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

This regulation does not request sensitive information.

12. Estimated Industry Burden and Burden Hour Cost

	Number of Plants Affected	Hours Per Plant	Annual Burden
Appendix R: Section III.I.3.d	104	24	2,496
Section III.I.4	104	120	12,480
10 CFR 50.48: Section 50.48(f)	20	72	1,440
Total Annual Burden			16,416

The estimated burden is based on staff's experience. The estimated cost to industry is \$2,560,896 (\$156 x 16,416).

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

Based on the number of pages maintained for a typical clearance, the records storage cost has been determined to be equal to .0004 percent of the recordkeeping burden cost. Therefore, the storage cost for this clearance is estimated to be \$1,024 (16,416 hours X \$156 X .0004).

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

We estimate that the average review time of fire brigade drill and training records per plant is 5 staff-hours. One hundred and four (104) plants are expected to comply with this requirement annually for an annual cost of \$81,120 to the Government (104 plants x 5 staff hours/plant = 520 staff hours; 520 staff hours x \$156/hr). We estimate that 1.25 staff hours per plant are required to review records maintained by 20 permanently shutdown plants pursuant to 50.48(f) for an annual cost of \$3,900 (20 plants x 1.25 staff hours/plant = 25 staff hours; 25 staff hours x \$156). Thus, the total annual cost to the Government is \$85,020 (\$81,120 + \$3,900). This cost is fully recovered by fee assessments to NRC licensees pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 170 and/or 171.

15. Reasons for Changes in Burden or Cost

The estimated burden has changed from 16,344 to 16,416 hours because the number of permanently shutdown plants has changed from 19 to 20 plants.

16. Publication for Statistical Use

The collected information is not published for statistical purposes.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the Expiration Date

The requirement is contained in a regulation. Amending the Code of Federal Regulations to display information that, in an annual publication, could become obsolete would be unduly burdensome and too difficult to keep current.

18. Exceptions to the Certification Statement

None.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

Not applicable.