

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide: Issuance, Availability

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a revision to an existing guide in the agency's Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.201, "Guidelines for Categorizing Structures, Systems, and Components in Nuclear Power Plants According to Their Safety Significance," which is being issued for trial use, describes a method that the NRC staff considers acceptable for use in complying with the Commission's requirements in Title 10, Section 50.69, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (§50.69), with respect to the categorization of structures, systems, and components (SSCs) that are considered in risk-informing special treatment requirements. This categorization method uses the process that the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) described in Revision 0 of its guidance document NEI 00-04, "10 CFR 50.69 SSC Categorization Guideline," dated July 2005.¹ Specifically, this process determines the safety significance of SSCs and categorizes them into one of four risk-informed safety class (RISC) categories.

The NRC has promulgated regulations to permit power reactor licensees and license applicants to implement an alternative regulatory framework with respect to "special treatment," where special treatment refers to those requirements that provide increased assurance beyond normal industrial practices that SSCs perform their design-basis functions. Under this

¹ NEI 00-04, "10 CFR 50.69 SSC Categorization Guideline," is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>, under Accession #ML052910035.

framework, licensees using a risk-informed process for categorizing SSCs according to their safety significance can remove SSCs of low safety significance from the scope of certain identified special treatment requirements.

The genesis of this framework stems from Option 2 of SECY-98-300, "Options for Risk-Informed Revisions to 10 CFR Part 50, 'Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities'," dated December 23, 1998.² In that Commission paper, the NRC staff recommended developing risk-informed approaches to the application of special treatment requirements to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden related to SSCs of low safety significance by removing such SSCs from the scope of special treatment requirements. The Commission subsequently approved the NRC staff's rulemaking plan and issuance of an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) as outlined in SECY-99-256, "Rulemaking Plan for Risk-Informing Special Treatment Requirements," dated October 29, 1999.

The Commission published the ANPR in the *Federal Register* (65 FR 11488) on March 3, 2000, and subsequently published a proposed rule for public comment (68 FR 26511) on May 16, 2003. Then, on November 22, 2004, the Commission adopted a new section, referred to as §50.69, within Title 10, Part 50, of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, on risk-informed categorization and treatment of SSCs for nuclear power plants (69 FR 68008).

The NRC issued a draft of this guide, Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1121, for public review and comment as part of the §50.69 rulemaking package in May 2003. The staff subsequently received and addressed public comments in developing the previous revision of this guide, which the agency published in January 2006, and has since incorporated additional stakeholder comments in preparing the current revision. However, since this is a new regulatory approach

² Commission papers cited in this notice are available through the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/>, and the related *Federal Register* notices are available through the Federal Register Web site sponsored by the Government Printing Office (GPO) at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

to categorizing SSCs, and to ensure that the final guidance adequately addresses lessons learned from the initial applications, the NRC decided to issue this guide for trial use. Therefore, this trial regulatory guide does not establish any final staff positions for purposes of the Backfit Rule, 10 CFR 50.109, and may continue to be revised in response to experience with its use. As such, any changes to this trial guide prior to staff adoption in final form will not be considered to be backfits as defined in 10 CFR 50.109(a)(1). This will ensure that the final regulatory guide adequately addresses lessons learned from regulatory review of pilot and follow-on applications, and that the guidance is sufficient to enhance regulatory stability in the review, approval, and implementation of probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs) and their results in the risk-informed categorization process required by §50.69.

The NRC staff encourages and welcomes comments and suggestions in connection with improvements to published regulatory guides, as well as items for inclusion in regulatory guides that are currently being developed. You may submit comments by any of the following methods.

Mail comments to: Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Hand-deliver comments to: Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

Fax comments to: Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, at (301) 415-5144.

Requests for technical information about Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.201 may be directed to Donald G. Harrison at (301) 415-3587 or via email to DGH@nrc.gov.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection or downloading through the NRC's public Web site in the Regulatory Guides document collection of the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections>. Electronic copies of Revision 1 of Regulatory

Guide 1.201 are also available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, under Accession #ML061090627.

In addition, regulatory guides are available for inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), which is located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland; the PDR's mailing address is USNRC PDR, Washington, DC 20555-0001. The PDR can also be reached by telephone at (301) 415-4737 or (800) 397-4205, by fax at (301) 415-3548, and by email to PDR@nrc.gov. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Reproduction and Distribution Services Section; by email to DISTRIBUTION@nrc.gov; or by fax to (301) 415-2289. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated.

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(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of May, 2006.

FOR THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION,

/RA/

Brian W. Sheron, Director
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