Withdrawn

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2006-15, “Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations,” dated August 14, 2006, has been withdrawn.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML061870141

See *Federal Register* notice 81 FR 31969, dated May 20, 2016

OMB Clearance No. 3150-0131

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

August 14, 2006

NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2006-15
PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

ADDRESSEES

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the NRC staff's need for updated information on projected site-specific operator licensing examination schedules, as well as the estimated numbers of applicants planning to take operator licensing examinations and the NRC's generic fundamentals examinations (GFEs). This information will help the NRC to more effectively use its resources. This RIS requires no action or written response on the part of addressees. Addressee actions to collect and transmit the information requested are strictly voluntary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 55.40, Subpart E, "Written Examinations and Operating Tests," permits nuclear power facility licensees to prepare, proctor, and grade the written examinations required by 10 CFR 55.41, "Written Examination: Operators," and 10 CFR 55.43, "Written Examination: Senior Operators," provided that they satisfy certain conditions. Under 10 CFR 55.40, facility licensees are also permitted to prepare the NRC-administered operating tests required by 10 CFR 55.45, "Operating Tests." Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(c), facility licensees that choose not to prepare their own examinations and operating tests must request in writing that the NRC prepare the examination and the operating tests.

In RIS 2005-19, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated August 24, 2005, the NRC asked facility licensees to submit proposed schedules of examinations that they intended to prepare and estimate the number of applicants to be tested in site examinations and GFEs in calendar years (CYs) 2006 through 2009.

ML061870141

The objective of this RIS is to update examination schedules and applicant estimates for CYs 2007 through 2009 and add an estimate for CY 2010.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The NRC uses about twice as many resources to prepare an examination as to review, approve, administer, and document a facility-prepared examination. The number of examinations administered by licensees fluctuates from year to year. Consequently, the NRC has found it helpful to request an annual update of power reactor facility licensees' initial operator licensing examination needs. The update should include an estimate of the number of applicants to be examined and whether the licensee or the NRC will prepare the exam. This information will help the NRC budget its resources. The NRC regional offices will continue to coordinate specific examination dates with the training managers of affected facility licensees.

The NRC is requesting that each licensee provide the following information on NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data" (enclosed).

A. Proposed Examination Preparation Schedule

Estimate the number of examinations you intend to prepare and the number of examinations you will request the NRC to prepare during CYs 2007 through 2010. For examinations that facility licensees will prepare, the NRC will assume that each examination includes the required outline, the written examination, and the operating test unless otherwise specified. Joint NRC/licensee examination development is permitted and should be coordinated with the NRC regional office.

B. Initial Operator License Examinations

For each desired examination, estimate the number of applicants to be tested and enter the proposed primary and alternate dates of examination. If you are requesting more than one examination per CY, split the applicable column or use additional forms as necessary to cover all the examinations through CY 2010.

C. Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule

Estimate by month the number of applicants who plan to take the GFE in CYs 2007 and 2008. As requested by the industry, the NRC now administers the GFE four times a year.

VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

The NRC asks addressees choosing to submit the information requested in NRC Form 536 to do so within 30 days of receiving this RIS. NRC Form 536 is available on the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/. Direct your response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and send a copy of the response to the applicable regional office. You may submit RIS responses electronically.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS requires no action or written response. Any action on the part of addressees to collect and transmit operator licensing examination data in accordance with the guidance contained in this RIS is strictly voluntary and, therefore, is not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, "Backfitting." Consequently, the NRC staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

The NRC did not publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS because it pertains to an administrative aspect of the regulatory process that involves the voluntary submission of information on the part of addressees.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

This RIS is not a rule as designated by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C.§§801-808) and, therefore is not subject to the Act.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS concerns a voluntary information collection that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). This voluntary information collection is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance No. 3150-0131, which expires on August 31, 2008.

The NRC estimates that the public reporting burden for this voluntary information collection on NRC Form 536 will average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. Send comments on any aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to infocollects@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

CONTACT

Please direct any questions about this matter to the technical contacts listed below.

/RA/
Ho K. Nieh, Acting Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contacts: Nancy L. Salgado, NRR
301-415-2942
email: NLS@nrc.gov

Marvin D. Sykes, RI
610-337-5046
email: MDS1@nrc.gov

James H. Moorman, RII
404-562-4647
email: JHM2@nrc.gov

Hironori Peterson, RIII
630-829-9707
email: HXP1@nrc.gov

Anthony T. Gody, RIV
817-860-8159
email: ATG@nrc.gov

Enclosure: NRC Form 536, “Operator Licensing Examination Data”

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Anthony T. Gody, RIV
817-860-8159
email: ATG@nrc.gov

Enclosure: NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data"

DISTRIBUTION:
RIS File

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NRC FORM 536 (8-2005) U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DATA

APPROVED BY OMB: NO. 3150-0131 EXPIRES: 08/31/2008

Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

FACILITY	NRC REGION

A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY____	CY____	CY____	CY____
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS				
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS				

B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY____	CY____	CY____	CY____
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS				
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - INSTANT				
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - UPGRADE				
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - LIMITED				
PROPOSED DATES				
PRIMARY DATE				
ALTERNATE DATE				

C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY _____				CY _____			
	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES								