



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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August 16, 2006

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES

**OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT REVISION TO STP PROCEDURE SA-700,
“PROCESSING AN AGREEMENT” (STP-06-073)**

Summary: This letter provides the States and appropriate U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) offices with an opportunity to comment on the draft revision to the STP Procedure SA-700, “Processing an Agreement.”

Purpose: The Commission has long held the view that its regulatory processes should be predictable and stable. In this connection the Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) has reviewed its Procedure, SA-700 with a view towards greater clarity and a more predictable and stable approach. The objective is to create an environment in which a prospective Agreement State can proceed with confidence that its application will receive timely and meaningful review and expeditious action by the NRC.

The STP Procedure SA-700 provides for the effective, efficient, and timely review of the request by a State for an Agreement or for an amendment to an existing Agreement. This document also provides an orderly transition in the discontinuance of regulatory authority by the NRC and assumption thereof by the State, as well as supports the necessary budgetary planning process that accompanies the transition.

In addition to the changes identified in the enclosure, we are considering two additional enhancements to our process. We are examining the feasibility of establishing two different review criteria; a new criteria for the completeness review and the existing criteria for the detailed technical review of the application. While the present use of the same criteria for both the acceptance and detailed technical review allows the review team flexibility in their analysis, there may be some benefit to applying review criteria designed specifically for each phase of the review process. We are also considering the benefit of conducting a site visit by one or more members of the review team during the review process.

Request for Comment: The changes to STP Procedure SA-700 are in redline/strikeout format. We would appreciate receiving your comments within 30 days from the date of this letter. Our staff plans to finalize the document after the 30 day comment period has ended.

NRC Point of Contact: Please provide your written comments on the draft revision of STP Procedure SA-700 to the point of contact, listed below, by close of business September 18, 2006*.

POINT OF CONTACT: William Rautzen
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/RA/

Janet R. Schlueter, Director
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Enclosure: As stated

* This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 06/30/07 and OMB 3150-0200, expiration 06/30/2009. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), 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 (3150-0029), 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.

STP-06-073

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