



Acceptance Reviews for Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Applications

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Introduction

- NRC/SFST is revising its procedure (Office Instruction 14) to implement a more rigorous acceptance review and has published the procedure for public comment
- Procedure fosters discipline by both NRC and applicants:
 - Ensures NRC resources are devoted to reviewing high quality applications
 - Ensures early identification of significant application deficiencies
 - May obviate need for multiple rounds of Requests for Additional Information (RAIs)

Overview

- What an Acceptance Review is:

A review to determine if an application contains sufficient technical information for the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review

- What an Acceptance Review is not:

- A full review where a conclusion on the acceptability of the proposed action is reached
- A substitute for the RAI process

Attributes of Review

- Administrative Criteria
- Use of Approved Guidance
- Special Circumstances for Exemptions
- Linked Applications
- Completeness of Scope
- Sufficiency of Information
- Regulatory Basis
- Appropriate Use of Precedent

Possible Outcomes of Acceptance Review

- Acceptable
- Acceptable Following Supplement
- Unacceptable (no opportunity to supplement)

Acceptable

- If acceptable with no supplement needed, NRC will inform the applicant and transition to detailed technical review

Acceptable Following Supplement

- If the supplement provides sufficient information to make the application acceptable for review, NRC will issue a letter documenting acceptability
- NRC will transition to detailed technical review

Unacceptable (no opportunity to supplement)

- If submittal is unacceptable for review, NRC will prepare a non-acceptance letter
- NRC informs applicant and provides an opportunity to withdraw the application:
 - If applicant withdraws, NRC will issue acknowledgement letter
 - If the applicant does not withdraw, NRC will issue the non-acceptance letter

Desired Outcomes

- Disciplined implementation of the acceptance review process will:
 - Allow NRC to more expeditiously and efficiently review accepted high quality applications
 - Ensure early identification & resolution of significant application deficiencies
 - Encourage submission of high quality applications

Next Steps

- Receipt of Public Comments through June 1:
 - Procedure available in ADAMS (ML090960796)
 - Provide comments to:
 - Chris Staab Christopher.Staab@nrc.gov 301-492-3321
 - Jason Piotter Jason.Piotter@nrc.gov 301-492-3286
- Procedure anticipated to be issued by September 2009
- Feedback: What is Working and What Isn't