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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Protecting People and the Environment

NRC Regulatory Guide Updates

Fuel Cycle Information Exchange
June 23, 2009

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NRC Regulatory Guides

- The NRC issues regulatory guides for public use to provide approaches that the staff considers acceptable for use in implementing the agency's regulations.

- Regulatory guides are developed by the NRC staff with input from external stakeholders. They are revised to incorporate new staff technical positions, revised industry standards, and lessons learned from practical experience.

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What is a Regulatory Guide?

- A Regulatory Guide identifies a method, process, or data that the staff has found acceptable to meet the regulations
- Regulatory Guides are not requirements
- Regulatory Guides are voluntary
- Regulatory Guides are only "forward fitting"

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Background

NRC has over 400 Active Regulatory Guides (RGs)

- **Regulatory Guides are divided into 10 divisions:**
  1. **Power Reactors**
  2. **Research and Test Reactors**
  3. ***Fuels and Materials Facilities***
  4. **Environment and Siting**
  5. **Materials and Plant Protection**
  6. **Products**
  7. **Transportation**
  8. **Occupational Health**
  9. **Antitrust and Financial Review**
  10. **General**

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Background

RGs became outdated because of:

- Lack of need
  - No construction applications after TMI
  - No reprocessing
  - RGs were current for applications "in-house"
- Periodic updates deferred due to higher priority work
  - Low priority / lacked resources
- Lack of a centralized process for revision
  - Cumbersome and resource intensive process for revision (2 years+)

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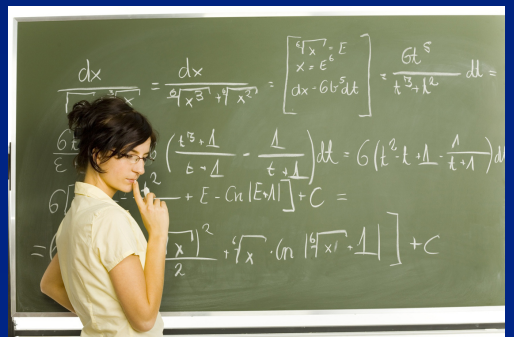
Regulatory Guide Update Program

- In 2006, Chairman approved staff proposal to update all RGs
- Project approach to categorize RGs into Groups/Phases for prioritization
  - Phase 1: High priority RGs (needed to support New Reactor Activities) updated by Mar 2007
  - Phase 2: updated by Dec 2008
  - Phase 3: updated by Dec 2009
  - Phase 4): updated by Dec 2010
- Funding provided for contract technical support for revisions
- Centralized Process: RES organized a special projects team to coordinate the revisions to meet schedule



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General Responsibilities

- Program Offices
  - Write or use contractor to write Technical Basis
  - Review contractor documents and draft RG
  - Stakeholder Presentations
  - Resolve and respond to comments
  - ACRS/CRGR interactions

- RES
  - Coordination / Contract administration
  - Obtain concurrences
  - Issue FRN for public comments and final publication
  - Publish Draft Guides and Regulatory Guides

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Revised Schedule for Update of RGs

- Approximately 50 RGs through the review and concurrence cycle
- Approximately 178 draft RGs are being developed by the program offices or with the assistance of contractors
- Approximately 240 RGs that have not began the update process
  - approximately 100 have been determined to be current with no update required
  - small group of RGs are being deferred because the RGs are tied to future regulatory action or policy decisions
  - most of the remainder are now scheduled to be updated by 2012.

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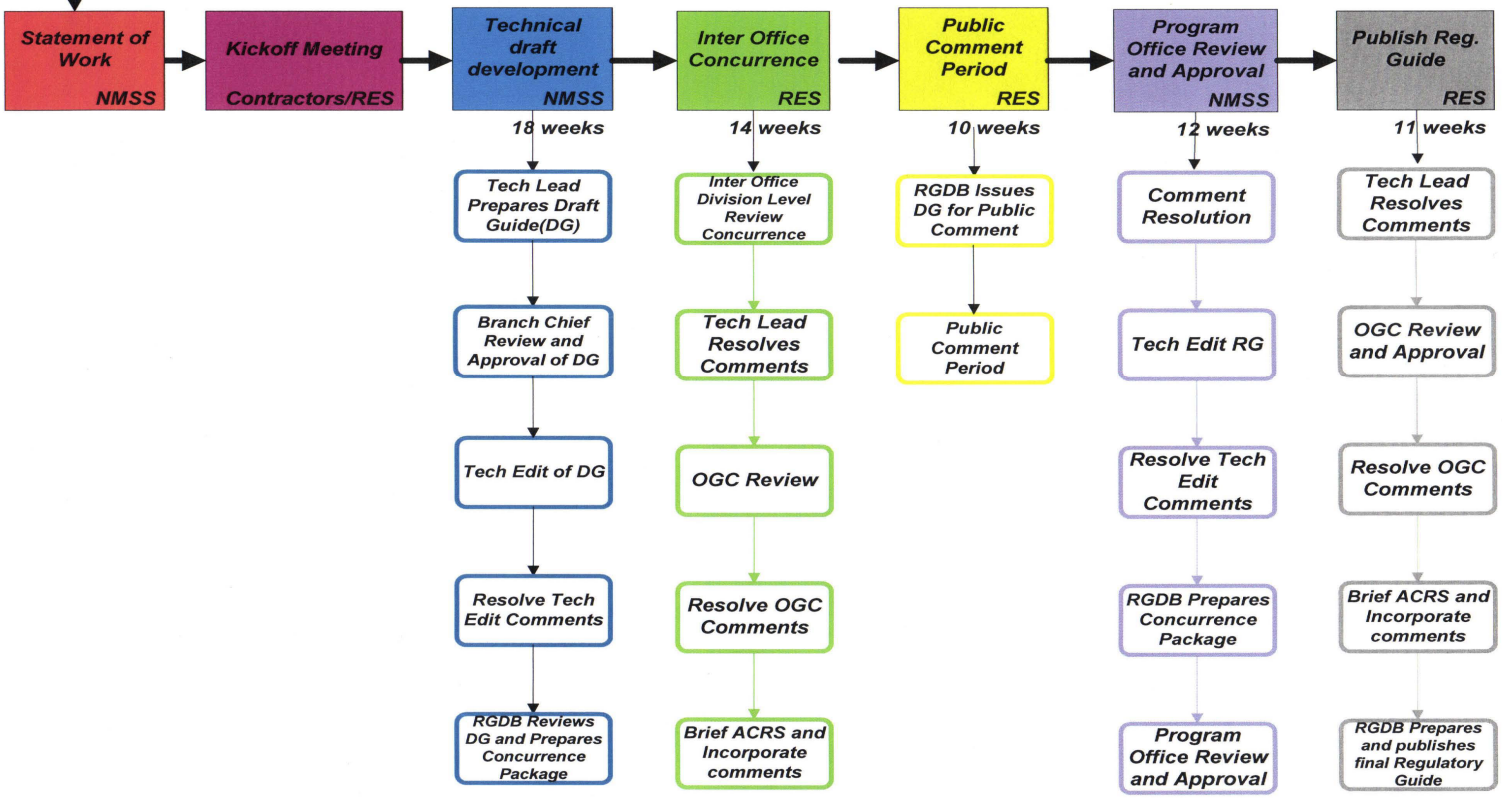
Regulatory Guide Review Process

A0

March 16, 2009



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NMSS Regulatory Guide Update Plan

- **Update or provide Office of Research contractor's "Statements of Work" or in-house drafting for 50 RGs assigned to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards related to fuel cycle safety and safeguards by August 31, 2009.**

- **47 RGs have a SOW drafted or are in process of preparing a Draft RG revision "in house."**

- **There are 17 RGs related to reprocessing for which "gap analysis" needs to be completed. This action is pending a decision on reprocessing and associated rulemaking. Updates of these RGs will be deferred until that time.**

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Public Involvement

- The lists of agency regulatory guides are shown on the NRC website at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/.
- Draft RGs that are available for public comment can be accessed by following the links from this webpage.
- More detailed schedules for revisions of the FCSS Reg Guides will be posted on FCSS web page.

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Questions?

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