



Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
5000 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060
Web Address: www.dom.com

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**COMMENTS ON DRAFT REGULATORY GUIDE DG-1215,
"QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
(DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION)"**

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The proposed revision to Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1215, "Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Design and Construction)," describes methods the NRC staff considers acceptable for complying with the provisions of Appendix B, "Quality Assurance Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants and Fuel Reprocessing Plants," to 10 CFR Part 50 for establishing and implementing a quality assurance (QA) program for the design and construction of nuclear power plants and fuel reprocessing plants.

Dominion Resources Services, Inc. (Dominion) appreciates the opportunity to comment on this regulatory guide. Our detailed comments are attached for your review and consideration. If you would like further information, please contact:

Michael Beers

Michael.Beers@dom.com or (804) 273-2906

Respectfully,

C. L. Funderburk, Director
Nuclear Licensing & Operations Support
Dominion Resources Services, Inc. for
Virginia Electric and Power Company,
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. and
Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc.

Attachment

SUNSL Review Complete

Template = ADM-013

E-RFD5 = ADM-03

add = R. Jervey (VAS)

**Dominion Comments on Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1215,
Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Design and Construction), July 2009**

1. **Reference to NQA-1**

In Section C, Regulatory Position, the reference in the first sentence and throughout the document to "NQA-1a-2008 Addenda to NQA-1-2008" appears to be incorrect. We believe the correct reference should be "NQA-1a-2009 Addenda to NQA-1-2008".

In the first paragraph of Section C, the wording of the first sentence can be read to limit the reference. "The Part I and Part II requirements included in the NQA-1a-2008 Addenda to NQA-1-2008" can be read to be endorsing only the NQA-1a-2008 Addenda and not NQA-1-2008. The reference should be clarified. The intent is to endorse NQA-1-2008 with the additions and modifications of NQA-1a-2009 Addenda to NQA-1-2008.

2. **Clarifications of Referenced RG 1.39 and Subpart 2.18 Applicability**

The first sentence of Section C, Regulatory Position, states, "The Part I and Part II requirements included in the NQA-1a-2008 Addenda to NQA-1-2008, "Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications" (Ref. 5), for the implementation of a QA Program during the design and construction phases of nuclear power plants and fuel reprocessing plants are acceptable to the NRC staff and provide an adequate basis for complying with the requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR part 50, subject to the additions and modifications of NQA-1a-2008 to NQA-1-2008 identified below".

Based on the explicit wording, the Regulatory Guide appears to be endorsing both Parts I and II of NQA-1-2008; therefore, Subpart 2.3, Quality Assurance Requirements for Housekeeping for Nuclear Power Plants, would also be endorsed and considered a requirement. NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan 17.5 Quality Assurance Program Description - Design Certification, Early Site Permit and New License Applicants, Section U. QA Program Commitments, does not require a commitment to either RG 1.39, Housekeeping Requirements for Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants, or NQA-1-2008, Subpart 2.3. The NRC should clarify if Subpart 2.3 is intended as a required commitment. Otherwise, utilities will need to justify an alternative to that information or include it as part of the Quality Assurance Program Description. If Subpart 2.3 is determined to be a required commitment, then the NRC should update Standard Review Plan 17.5 and withdraw RG 1.39, since ANSI N45.2.3, "Housekeeping During the Construction Phase of Nuclear Power Plants," is replaced with NQA-1, Subpart 2.3.

In addition, NUREG-0800, Standard Review Plan 17.5 Quality Assurance Program Description - Design Certification, Early Site Permit and New License

Applicants, Section U QA Program Commitments, does not require a commitment to NQA-1-2008, Subpart 2.18, Quality Assurance Requirements for Maintenance of Nuclear Facilities. Likewise, the NRC should clarify if Subpart 2.18 is intended as a required commitment or not. Otherwise, utilities will need to justify an alternative to that information or include it as part of the Quality Assurance Program Description. If Subpart 2.18 is determined to be a required commitment, then the NRC should update Standard Review Plan 17.5.

3. **Clarification of Referenced Appendix 17A-1 Applicability**

Regulatory Position 1.a.(3) states: "Revision 3 of this regulatory guide provided guidance on the retention period for programmatic and product nonpermanent records. However, because there are additional regulatory requirements for specific records and established industry practice, this guidance was deemed obsolete and no longer necessary. Non-mandatory Appendix 17A-1, "Guidance on Quality Assurance Records," in Paragraph 200, "List of Typical Lifetime Records," lists typical lifetime records containing information that meets Requirement 17 of Part I".

This paragraph appears to implicitly be invoking Part III, Subpart 3.1, Non-mandatory Appendix 17A-1, "Guidance on Quality Assurance Records". This position should be clarified to explicitly state if Part III, Non-mandatory Appendix 17A-1, "Guidance on Quality Assurance Records" is considered a requirement or not.

4. **Recordkeeping**

In the event NQA-1a-2009 Addenda to NQA-1-2008, Part III, Subpart 3.1, Non-mandatory Appendix 17A-1, "Guidance on Quality Assurance Records," Paragraph 200, "List of Typical Lifetime Records," is considered to be a requirement, there are concerns with some of the records listed in Paragraph 200. The list includes a number of records that have not previously been considered lifetime records. Although, the proposed draft specifically identifies no backfit imposition, many of these examples are not consistent with previous NRC guidance and precedence, and some appear to be inappropriate for lifetime retention. Examples from Paragraph 200 include:

From Section 206 Operational Records, item (aa) Quality Assurance and Quality Control manuals are identified as lifetime records; however, NRC RG 1.28, Rev. 3, Table 1, "Retention Times for Lifetime and Nonpermanent Records," indicates Quality Assurance and Quality Control manuals are nonpermanent records with a 3 year retention requirement.

From Section 206 Operational Records, item (w) Fire Protection "records" are identified as lifetime records; however, NRC RG 1.28, Rev. 3, Table 1, "Retention Times for Lifetime and Nonpermanent Records," indicates Fire Protection

"reports" are lifetime records. Fire Protection "records" is a more general terminology and more inclusive than Fire Protection "reports." Many general Fire Protection "records" may not rise to the standard of a quality related "report", and therefore do not merit lifetime recordkeeping.

From Section 206 Operational Records, item (x) Nonconformance/Corrective Action Reports are identified as lifetime records; however, NRC RG 1.28, Rev. 3, Table 1, "Retention Times for Lifetime and Nonpermanent Records," indicates that only Nonconformance Reports are lifetime records. The new definition is more general and broader than Nonconformance Reports, because the draft wording appears to include all corrective action reports, which may or may not be for non-conformances. The correction of some deficiencies and deviations of low significance may be documented within the record of an item that is not considered to be a lifetime record.

From Section 200 Procurement Records, item (c) Evaluated Supplier Listing is identified as a lifetime record; however, the list of evaluated suppliers should not be considered a quality assurance record because it does not furnish any evidence of quality. The evidence of quality would be contained in the documented evaluations of the suppliers, not the list itself.

From Section 203 Manufacturing Records, item (n) Welder qualification reports are identified as lifetime records; however, NRC RG 1.28, Rev. 3, Table 1, "Retention Times for Lifetime and Nonpermanent Records," indicates welding personnel qualifications are nonpermanent records with a 3 year retention requirement.

From Section 204.2 Welding, item (c) NDE procedures are identified as lifetime records; however, NRC RG 1.28, Rev. 3, Table 1, "Retention Times for Lifetime and Nonpermanent Records," indicates that Liquid Penetrant, Magnetic Particle, Ultrasonic, and Radiographic test procedures are nonpermanent records with a 3 year retention requirement.

From Section 204.3 Mechanical, item (h) Pressure test results (hydrostatic or pneumatic) are identified as lifetime records; however, NRC RG 1.28, Rev. 3, Table 1, "Retention Times for Lifetime and Nonpermanent Records," indicates pressure test results (hydrostatic or pneumatic) are nonpermanent records with a 3 year retention requirement.