Draft NUREG-1800, Rev. 1

Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants

Manuscript Completed: September 2005
Date Published: TBD

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

An aging effect due to an abnormal event does not preclude that aging effect from occurring during normal operation for the period of extended operation. For example, a certain PWR licensee observed clad cracking in its pressurizer, and attributed that to an abnormal dry out of the pressurizer. Although dry out of a pressurizer is an abnormal event, the potential for clad cracking in the pressurizer during normal operation should be evaluated for license renewal. This is because the pressurizer is subject to extensive thermal fluctuations and water level changes during plant operation, which may result in clad cracking given sufficient operating time. The abnormal dry out of the pressurizer at that certain plant may have merely accelerated the rate of the aging effect.

A.1.2.2 Aging Management Program for License Renewal

1. An acceptable aging management program should consist of the 10 elements described in Table A.1-1, as appropriate (Ref. 1). These program elements/attributes are discussed further in Position A.1.2.3 below.

2. All programs and activities that are credited for managing a certain aging effect for a specific structure or component should be described. These aging management programs/activities may be evaluated together for the 10 elements described in Table A.1-1, as appropriate.

3. The risk significance of a structure or component could be considered in evaluating the robustness of an aging management program. Probabilistic arguments may be used to assist in developing an approach for aging management adequacy. However, use of probabilistic arguments alone is not an acceptable basis for concluding that, for those structures and components subject to an AMR, the effects of aging will be adequately managed in the period of extended operation. Thus, risk significance may be considered in developing the details of an aging management program for the structure or component for license renewal, but may not be used to conclude that no aging management program is necessary for license renewal.

A.1.2.3 Aging Management Program Elements

A.1.2.3.1 Scope of Program

1. The specific program necessary for license renewal should be identified. The scope of the program should include the specific structures and components of which the program manages the aging.

A.1.2.3.2 Preventive Actions

1. The activities for prevention and mitigation programs should be described. These actions should mitigate or prevent aging degradation.

2. For condition or performance monitoring programs, they do not rely on preventive actions and thus, this information need not be provided. More than one type of aging management program may be implemented to ensure that aging effects are managed.

A.1.2.3.3 Parameters Monitored or Inspected

1. The parameters to be monitored or inspected should be identified and linked to the degradation of the particular structure and component intended function(s).

2. For a condition monitoring program, the parameter monitored or inspected should detect the presence and extent of aging effects. Some examples are measurements of wall thickness and detection and sizing of cracks.

3. For a performance monitoring program, a link should be established between the degradation of the particular structure or component intended function(s) and the parameter(s) being monitored. An example of linking the degradation of a passive component intended function with the performance being monitored is linking the fouling of heat exchanger tubes with the heat transfer intended function. This could be monitored by periodic heat balances. Since this example deals only with one intended function of the tubes, heat transfer, additional programs may be necessary to manage other intended function(s) of the tubes, such as pressure boundary.

   A performance monitoring program may not ensure the structure and component intended function(s) without linking the degradation of passive intended functions with the performance being monitored. For example, a periodic diesel generator test alone would not provide assurance that the diesel will start and run properly under all applicable design conditions. While the test verifies that the diesel will perform if all the support systems function, it provides little information related to the material condition of the support components and their ability to withstand DBE loads. Thus, a DBE, such as a seismic event, could cause the diesel supports, such as the diesel embedment plate anchors or the fuel oil tank, to fail if the effects of aging on these components are not managed during the period of extended operation.

4. For prevention and mitigation programs, the parameters monitored should be the specific parameters being controlled to achieve prevention or mitigation of aging effects. An example is the coolant oxygen level that is being controlled in a water chemistry program to mitigate pipe cracking.

A.1.2.3.4 Detection of Aging Effects

1. Detection of aging effects should occur before there is a loss of the structure and component intended function(s). The parameters to be monitored or inspected should be appropriate to ensure that the structure and component intended function(s) will be adequately maintained for license renewal under all CLB design conditions. This includes aspects such as method or technique (e.g., visual, volumetric, surface inspection), frequency, sample size, data collection and timing of new/one-time inspections to ensure timely detection of aging effects. Provide information that links the parameters to be monitored or inspected to the aging effects being managed.

2. Nuclear power plants are licensed based on redundancy, diversity, and defense-in-depth principles. A degraded or failed component reduces the reliability of the system, challenges safety systems, and contributes to plant risk. Thus, the effects of aging on a structure or component should be managed to ensure its availability to perform its intended function(s) as designed when called upon. In this way, all system level intended function(s), including redundancy, diversity, and defense-in-depth consistent with the plant's CLB, would be

maintained for license renewal. A program based solely on detecting structure and component failure should not be considered as an effective aging management program for license renewal.

3. This program element describes “when,” “where,” and “how” program data are collected (i.e., all aspects of activities to collect data as part of the program).

4. The method or technique and frequency may be linked to plant-specific or industry-wide operating experience. Provide justification, including codes and standards referenced, that the technique and frequency are adequate to detect the aging effects before a loss of SC intended function. A program based solely on detecting SC failures is not considered an effective aging management program.

5. When sampling is used to inspect a group of SCs, provide the basis for the inspection population and sample size. The inspection population should be based on such aspects of the SCs as a similarity of materials of construction, fabrication, procurement, design, installation, operating environment, or aging effects. The sample size should be based on such aspects of the SCs as the specific aging effect, location, existing technical information, system and structure design, materials of construction, service environment, or previous failure history. The samples should be biased toward locations most susceptible to the specific aging effect of concern in the period of extended operation. Provisions should also be included on expanding the sample size when degradation is detected in the initial sample.

A.1.2.3.5 Monitoring and Trending

1. Monitoring and trending activities should be described, and they should provide predictability of the extent of degradation and thus effect timely corrective or mitigative actions. Plant-specific and/or industry-wide operating experience may be considered in evaluating the appropriateness of the technique and frequency.

2. This program element describes “how” the data collected are evaluated and may also include trending for a forward look. This includes an evaluation of the results against the acceptance criteria and a prediction regarding the rate of degradation in order to confirm that timing of the next scheduled inspection will occur before a loss of SC intended function. Although aging indicators may be quantitative or qualitative, aging indicators should be quantified, to the extent possible, to allow trending. The parameter or indicator trended should be described. The methodology for analyzing the inspection or test results against the acceptance criteria should be described. Trending is a comparison of the current monitoring results with previous monitoring results in order to make predictions for the future.

A.1.2.3.6 Acceptance Criteria

1. The acceptance criteria of the program and its basis should be described. The acceptance criteria, against which the need for corrective actions will be evaluated, should ensure that the structure and component intended function(s) are maintained under all CLB design conditions during the period of extended operation. The program should include a methodology for analyzing the results against applicable acceptance criteria.

For example, carbon steel pipe wall thinning may occur under certain conditions due to erosion-corrosion. An aging management program for erosion-corrosion may consist of periodically measuring the pipe wall thickness and comparing that to a specific minimum wall acceptance criterion. Corrective action is taken, such as piping replacement, before reaching this acceptance criterion. This piping may be designed for thermal, pressure, deadweight, seismic, and other loads, and this acceptance criterion must be appropriate to ensure that the thinned piping would be able to carry these CLB design loads. This acceptance criterion should provide for timely corrective action before loss of intended function under these CLB design loads.

2. Acceptance criteria could be specific numerical values, or could consist of a discussion of the process for calculating specific numerical values of conditional acceptance criteria to ensure that the structure and component intended function(s) will be maintained under all CLB design conditions. Information from available references may be cited.

3. It is not necessary to justify any acceptance criteria taken directly from the design basis information that is included in the FSAR because that is a part of the CLB. Also, it is not necessary to discuss CLB design loads if the acceptance criteria do not permit degradation because a structure and component without degradation should continue to function as originally designed. Acceptance criteria, which do permit degradation, are based on maintaining the intended function under all CLB design loads.

4. Qualitative inspections should be performed to same predetermined criteria as quantitative inspections by personnel in accordance with ASME Code and through approved site specific programs.

A.1.2.3.7 Corrective Actions

1. Actions to be taken when the acceptance criteria are not met should be described. Corrective actions, including root cause determination and prevention of recurrence, should be timely.

2. If corrective actions permit analysis without repair or replacement, the analysis should ensure that the structure and component intended function(s) will be maintained consistent with the CLB.

A.1.2.3.8 Confirmation Process

1. The confirmation process should be described. It should ensure that preventive actions are adequate and that appropriate corrective actions have been completed and are effective.

2. The effectiveness of prevention and mitigation programs should be verified periodically. For example, in managing internal corrosion of piping, a mitigation program (water chemistry) may be used to minimize susceptibility to corrosion. However, it may also be necessary to have a condition monitoring program (ultrasonic inspection) to verify that corrosion is indeed insignificant.

3. When corrective actions are necessary, there should be follow-up activities to confirm that the corrective actions were completed, the root cause determination was performed, and recurrence is prevented.

A.1.2.3.9 Administrative Controls

1. The administrative controls of the program should be described. They should provide a formal review and approval process.

2. Any aging management programs to be relied on for license renewal should have regulatory and administrative controls. That is the basis for 10 CFR 54.21(d) to require that the FSAR supplement includes a summary description of the programs and activities for managing the effects of aging for license renewal. Thus, any informal programs relied on to manage aging for license renewal must be administratively controlled and included in the FSAR supplement.

A.1.2.3.10 Operating experience

1. Operating experience with existing programs should be discussed. The operating experience of aging management programs, including past corrective actions resulting in program enhancements or additional programs, should be considered. A past failure would not necessarily invalidate an aging management program because the feedback from operating experience should have resulted in appropriate program enhancements or new programs. This information can show where an existing program has succeeded and where it has failed (if at all) in intercepting aging degradation in a timely manner. This information should provide objective evidence to support the conclusion that the effects of aging will be managed adequately so that the structure and component intended function(s) will be maintained during the period of extended operation.

2. An applicant may have to commit to providing operating experience in the future for new programs to confirm their effectiveness.

A.1.3 References

1. NEI 95-10, Revision 3, “Industry Guideline for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 54 - The License Renewal Rule,” Nuclear Energy Institute, March 2001