

Develop an Alternative Risk-Informed Approach to Special Treatment Requirements in 10 CFR Part 50

Lead Office/Division: NRR/DRA

Description

The Commission decided in 1998 to consider promulgating new regulations that would provide an alternative risk-informed approach for special treatment requirements in the current regulations for power reactors. Special treatment requirements for structures, systems, and components go beyond industry-established requirements for equipment classified as "commercial grade." Special treatment requirements provide additional confidence that the equipment is capable of meeting its functional requirements under design basis conditions. The Commission approved the final rule, with some modifications, in an affirmation session on October 7, 2004. The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on November 22, 2004 (69 FR 68008). The NRC staff issued Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.201, "Guidelines for Categorizing Structures, Systems, and Components in Nuclear Power Plants According to Their Safety Significance," Revision 1, on April 28, 2006.

On September 25, 2006, the Nuclear Energy Institute submitted Westinghouse Topical Report WCAP-16308-NP (Revision 0, July 2006), "Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Groups 10 CFR 50.69 Pilot Program – Categorization Process – Wolf Creek Generating Station," for NRC review. The topical report proposed a categorization process used by Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in support of a future licensee submittal requesting approval to implement 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-informed categorization and treatment of structures, systems and components [SSCs] for nuclear power reactors," at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The staff completed its review of the topical report and issued its final safety evaluation on March 26, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML090260674).

By letter dated December 6, 2010, Southern Nuclear Company (SNC) informed the NRC of SNC's intent to submit a license amendment request for implementation of 10 CFR 50.69 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 1 and 2 and requested pilot plant status and waiver of review fees. By letter dated June 17, 2011, the NRC staff informed SNC that the NRC has granted the fee waiver request for the proposed licensing action in accordance with 10 CFR 170.11(b). SNC has indicated that it plans to submit a licensing action request early in 2012.

In addition, the NRC staff issued draft Inspection Procedure 37060, "10 CFR 50.69 Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components Inspection," on February 16, 2011. NEI and one licensee provided comments on the procedure. The NRC staff will address the comments and plans to issue final guidance in summer 2011.

The staff recognizes the need for an effective, stable and predictable regulatory climate for the implementation of 10 CFR 50.69. Inspection guidance developed with industry stakeholder input is viewed as an efficient vehicle for reaching a common understanding of what constitutes an acceptable treatment program for SSCs since specific treatment plans are not reviewed as part of a licensee's application to implement 10 CFR 50.69.