

RUSSELL J. BELL

Senior Director, New Plant Licensing

1201 F Street, NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20004

P: 202.739.8087

rjb@nei.org

nei.org



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July 9, 2013

Ms. Cindy K. Bladey

Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)

Office of Administration

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: NEI Comments on Draft SRP 17.4, *Reliability Assurance Program*, 78 Fed. Reg. 35072; Docket ID NRC-2013-0123

Project Number: 689

Dear Ms. Bladey:

On behalf of the nuclear energy industry, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)¹ appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the subject draft subsection to NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants: LWR Edition," (SRP).

The changes to this SRP chapter are intended to reflect the current staff review methods and practices based on lessons learned from NRC reviews of design certification and combined license applications completed since the last revision of this chapter. We agree that the proposed changes will implement the guidance previously issued through interim staff guidance DC/COL-ISG-018.

We note that the proposed draft introduces some undefined terms. As noted in the attached comments, we recommend avoiding the introduction of undefined terms. We believe that incorporation of the comments provided in the attachment to this letter will improve the SRP and will effectively achieve the NRC's stated objectives.

¹ The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is the organization responsible for establishing unified industry policy on matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include all entities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect/engineering firms, fuel cycle facilities, nuclear materials licensees, and other organizations and entities involved in the nuclear energy industry.

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We appreciate the NRC staff's consideration of these comments. If you have any questions concerning this letter or the attached comments, please contact me or Kati Austgen (202.739.8068; kra@nei.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJ Bell", written in a cursive style.

Russell J. Bell

Attachment

c: Mr. Joseph Colaccino, NRO/DARR/APOB, NRC
Ms. Suzanne K. Schroer, NRO/DSRA/SPRA, NRC
NRC Document Control Desk

Industry Comments on SRP 17.4, *Reliability Assurance Program*, Draft Rev. 1 – July 9, 2013

Affected Section	Comment/Basis	Recommendation
1. General	Consistent with the first paragraph in Section I, "This Standard Review Plan (SRP) section provides the staff guidance on how to perform safety reviews of the reliability assurance program (RAP) description in design certification (DC) and combined license (COL) applications." However, a future applicant could also elect to license a nuclear plant under 10 CFR Part 50 via the Construction Permit (CP) and Operating License (OL) process. This accommodation should not impact either the staff's review procedures or criteria, but should be acknowledged in SRP 17.4.	Revise SRP 17.4 to address NRC staff review of a RAP description under both 10 CFR Part 50 and Part 52.
2. Section I. Areas of Review, Fourth Paragraph, Last Sentence, Page 17.4-2	There is an editorial error in the last sentence in the fourth paragraph of Section I.	Clarify the last sentence in the fourth paragraph of Section I as follows: "The second stage is comprised of <u>comprises</u> the reliability assurance activities ..."
3. Section I. Areas of Review, Last bullet, Page 17.4-2	<p>The last bullet introduces the term "implementation controls" which is not a consistently used industry term. See also Comments 13 & 15.</p> <p>Further, the current grammatical structure is confusing.</p>	<p>Revise bullet as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Apply the implementation controls² of D-RAP (i.e., organization, design control, procedures and instructions, records, corrective actions, and audit plans) during design and construction activities. These implementation Programmatic controls are processes and controls established that ensure the risk insights and key assumptions are consistent with the plant design and construction. These programmatic controls address organization responsibilities, design control activities, records, corrective action and assessment

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		<p><u>plans</u> and that the list of RAP SSCs is appropriately developed, maintained, and communicated to the appropriate organizations."</p>
<p>4. Section I. Areas of Review, Footnote 1, Page 17.4-2</p>	<p>Recommend a change in the last sentence in Footnote 1 to delete the phrase "and control reliability and availability" and add a sentence to include the phrase. This would clarify the last sentence of the footnote for readability purposes.</p>	<p>Revise the last sentence in Footnote 1, and add a new last sentence, as follows: "Implementation of D-RAP should be a process that ensures the plant is designed and constructed in a manner that is consistent with the risk insights and key assumptions and control reliability and availability of RAP SSCs. <u>The RAP provides controls to maintain the reliability and availability of RAP SSCs.</u>"</p>
<p>5. Section I. Areas of Review, First bullet, Page 17.4-3</p>	<p>The current grammatical structure of the first bullet is confusing.</p>	<p>Revise bullet as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Implement the Appropriate programs for quality assurance (QA) related to design and construction activities (e.g., design, procurement, fabrication, construction, inspection, and testing activities)..."
<p>6. Section I. Areas of Review, discussion of D-RAP implementation phases, Page 17.4-3 – 4</p>	<p>The discussion of D-RAP implementation phases lists required activities for each phase, but uses the term "includes," suggesting the list is exemplary rather than exhaustive. E.g.,</p> <p>"During the DC phase, the DC applicant develops and implements those portions of the D-RAP that apply to the DC. This effort includes:..."</p> <p>The RAP requirements should be specified without potential ambiguity.</p>	<p>Remove ambiguity by revising the lead bullet for each D-RAP phase as follows:</p> <p>"During the DC phase, the DC applicant develops and implements those portions of the D-RAP that apply to the DC. This effort includes <u>consists of:...</u>"</p> <p>"During the COL application phase, the COL applicant develops and implements those portions of the D-RAP that apply to the COL. This effort includes <u>consists of:...</u>"</p>

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		<p>"Prior to initial fuel load, the COL licensee is responsible for implementing the D-RAP, which includes <u>consists of</u>:..."</p>
<p>7. Section I. Areas of Review, Third paragraph beginning, "The objective," Page 17.4-4</p>	<p>The third paragraph on Page 17.4-3 refers to "the operations phase of the plant's life cycle." For clarity, "life cycle" should be replaced with "license."</p>	<p>Clarify the first sentence of the third paragraph on Page 17.4-4 by replacing "life cycle" with "license."</p>
<p>8. Section I. Areas of Review, Second bullet, Page 17.4-5</p>	<p>This bullet states, "<u>COL Action Items and Certification Requirements and Restrictions</u>". For a DC application, the review will also address COL action items <i>and requirements and restrictions</i>.</p> <p>For a COL application referencing a DC, a COL applicant must address COL action items (referred to as COL license information in certain DCs) included in the referenced DC. <i>Additionally, a COL applicant must address requirements and restrictions in the referenced DC.</i> [Emphasis added.]</p> <p>What is the basis for adding the new terms "Certification Requirements and Restrictions"? COL Action item(s) is a well understood term/concept. Delete the new terms or clarify the terms/concepts in the SRP if they will remain in this revision.</p>	<p>Delete the terms "certification requirements and restrictions" and revise the second bullet as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>"COL Action Items and Certification Requirements and Restrictions</u>". For a DC application, the review will also address COL action items and requirements and restrictions. <p>For a COL application referencing a DC, a COL applicant must address COL action items (referred to as COL license information in certain DCs) included in the referenced DC. Additionally, a COL applicant must address requirements and restrictions in the referenced DC.</p>
<p>9. Section I. Areas of Review, Review Interfaces item 2, Page 17.4-5</p>	<p>Item 2 contains the first use of the acronym "RTNSS" within this SRP section. RTNSS should be defined prior to use.</p>	<p>Insert "Regulatory Treatment of Non-Safety Systems" prior to the first use of "RTNSS."</p>

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10. Section II. Acceptance Criteria, Paragraph A.2, Pages 17.4-6 & 7	Paragraph A.2 uses the term "implementation controls" which is not a consistently used industry term. See previous Comment 5.	Replace "implementation controls" with "programmatic controls."
11. Section II. Acceptance Criteria, item 6, Page 17.4-8	Editorial suggestion to simplify for readability.	Simplify item 6 as follows: "6. The application should describe the audit plans for conducting audits of D-RAP activities."
12. Section II. Acceptance Criteria, Paragraph B.1, Page 17.4-12	Paragraph B.1 uses the term "implementation controls" which is not a consistently used industry term. See previous Comments 5 & 13.	Revise paragraph B.1 as follows: "Plant-Specific Reliability Assurance Program The applicant should appropriately update the description of the D-RAP to include relevant COL site- and plant-specific information (e.g., design, program, procedural, and organizational information). This includes (1) identifying the SSCs within the scope of the plant-specific RAP (i.e., the RAP SSCs identified in the DC, updated using COL site- and plant-specific information), and (2) establishing the <u>implementation programmatic</u> controls of D-RAP (see Section A.2) that are applied during the COL design and construction activities prior to initial fuel load. These <u>implementation programmatic</u> controls are processes and controls that ensure the plant will be designed and constructed in a manner that is consistent with the risk insights and key assumptions from probabilistic, deterministic, and other methods of analysis used to identify and quantify risk. If needed, the staff can perform one or more audits

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		to verify that the applicant appropriately applied the implementation <u>programmatic</u> controls of D-RAP during design activities in the COL application phase.
13. Section II. Acceptance Criteria, Paragraph B.2, Page 17.4-12	Suggest a title revision for simplification.	Revise the title of Paragraph B.2 as follows: "Quality Assurance <u>Program</u> Associated with Design and Construction Activities "