

Proposed Changes to the NRC Operator Licensing Program

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June 16, 2015

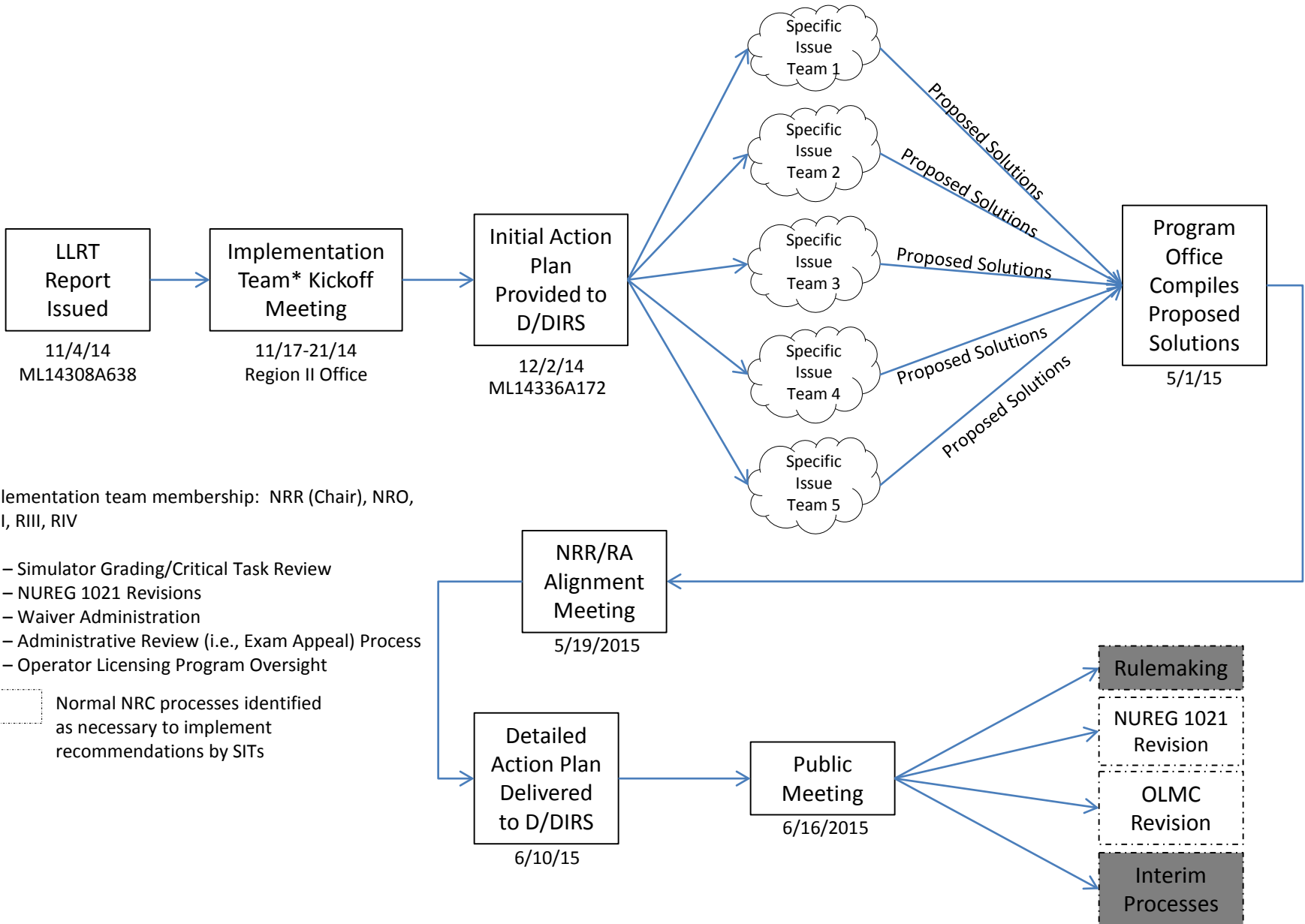
Today's Meeting

We are here to share with you some proposed changes we intend to pursue to improve the Operator Licensing Program administration. We are not soliciting formal comments at this time, however, the public will have an opportunity to provide formal comments on the NUREG 1021 changes later in the process. We are interested in discussing your ideas and receiving feedback on ways to improve the Operator Licensing Program administration.

Background

- Lessons Learned Review Team (LLRT) consisted of cross-regional senior examiners independent of individuals involved in the hearing process
- Operator Licensing Implementation Team (OLIT) consisted of members from all 4 regions and the program office
- Both teams had full support of NRC senior management

LLRT REPORT RESPONSE PROCESS



*Implementation team membership: NRR (Chair), NRO, RI, RII, RIII, RIV

- SIT 1 – Simulator Grading/Critical Task Review
- SIT 2 – NUREG 1021 Revisions
- SIT 3 – Waiver Administration
- SIT 4 – Administrative Review (i.e., Exam Appeal) Process
- SIT 5 – Operator Licensing Program Oversight

Normal NRC processes identified as necessary to implement recommendations by SITs

Purpose

Enhance the Operator Licensing examination process to provide a more consistent means of making licensing decisions, evaluating excusals and waivers of examination requirements, and strengthening the guidance related to the appeal process.

Proposed NUREG 1021 Changes

- Discontinue the practice of restoring a point back when two non-critical errors are offset by correctly performing another activity in the same rating factor
- Revise simulator performance scoring to be revised from a range of 1 to 3 to a range of 0 to 3

Proposed NUREG 1021 Changes (cont'd)

- Critical Tasks (CTs)-Enhance guidance for pre-identifying CTs, now have “EOP-based CTs” and “Total number of CTs” as a “target” rather than a “limit”
- Add criteria to ES-501, “Initial Post-Examination Activities,” to hold licenses in abeyance if there are operating test failures

Proposed NUREG 1021 Changes (cont'd)

- Utilize formal correspondence only for waiver requests and decisions
- Add excusal justification criteria for passed portion of exam to the NUREG
- Limit appeal reviews to contested items only

Proposed NUREG 1021 Changes (cont'd)

- Branch Chief or other management official to observe any re-examination following allegations of conflicts of interest or bias
- Add examiner restrictions for operating retake exams:
 - Any examiner who observed the applicant's initial exam is prohibited from participating in retake
 - A different manager shall make the final licensing decision
- Incorporate applicable FAQs into Rev.11

BREAK!

Proposed Operator Licensing Internal Process Changes

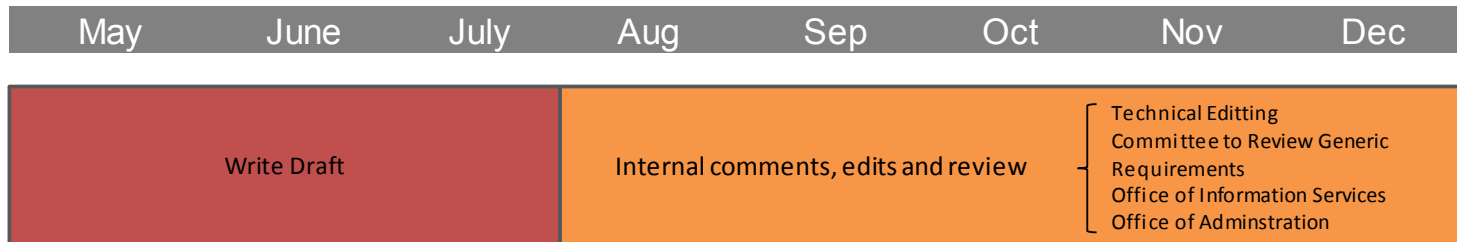
- Appeal review process being revised to clearly identify scope and conduct of the appeal panel
- Examination Waiver and Excusal guidance is being clarified
- Bias/Prejudice claims to be handled in accordance with our internal process regarding “Licensee complaints against NRC employees”

Proposed Operator Licensing Internal Process Changes

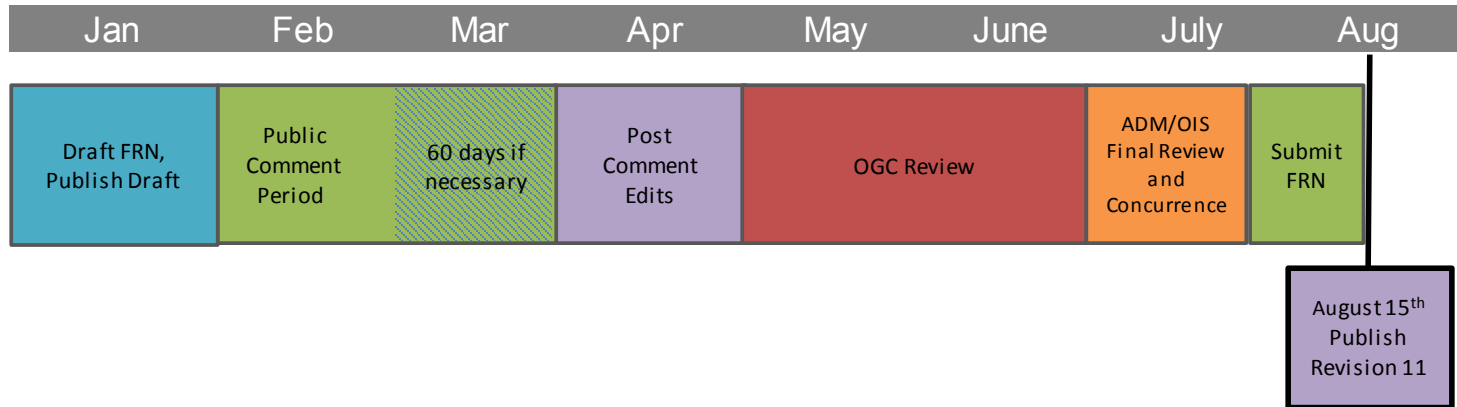
- Establish process for managing regional differences
- Enhance Audit/Peer review process
 - Cross-regional participation on exams
 - Measures to improve program oversight and interactions across regions
- Examiner training updated with case studies and results from audits and appeal resolutions

Action Plan Timeline

2015



2016



NUREG 1021
545 pages
23 sections, 6 appendices

List of Acronyms

ADM//OIS	Office of Administration/Office of Information Services
CT	Critical Task
D/DIRS	Director/Division of Inspection and Regional Support
EOP	Emergency Operating Procedures
ES	Examination Standards
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FRN	Federal Register Notice
LLRT	Lessons Learned Review Team
NRR/RA	Nuclear Reactor Regulation/Regional Administrator
OGC	Office of General Counsel
OLIT	Operator Licensing Implementation Team
OLMC	Operator Licensing Manual Chapter
SIT	Specific Issue Team

Questions