

Process Overview for Implementation of Containment Venting Order

Summary:

The NRC is working to ensure the relevant U.S. nuclear power plants are efficiently and effectively installing or improving reliable containment vent systems. The NRC is endorsing adequate guidance for complying with the NRC's Order regarding vents, evaluating implementation plans, and preparing for review and verification activities.

Background:

- NRC's Order EA-13-109 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML13143A321](#)) (which replaced and improved on the initial NRC Order EA-12-050) requires reactors with containment designs similar to Fukushima to install or improve ventilation capabilities, which must function in conditions following reactor core damage.
- Plants must implement the order in two phases:
 - Phase 1 requires upgraded containment venting capabilities from the reactor's pressure suppression "wetwell" to assist in preventing core damage and remain functional after core damage.
 - Phase 2 requires additional protection after core damage through either a reliable vent from the airspace ("drywell") within containment, or a reliable venting strategy that almost eliminates the need for drywell venting.
- The NRC's JLD-ISG-2013-02 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML13304B836](#)) endorsed (with exceptions) industry guidance [NEI 13-02](#) to address Phase 1 of the new order.
- The NRC staff continues working with stakeholders to develop and endorse Phase 2 guidance.
- In [SECY-15-0085](#), the NRC staff presented the regulatory basis for the containment protection and release reduction (CPRR) rulemaking.
- On [August 19, 2015](#), the Commission disapproved the proposed CPRR rulemaking, leaving the implementation of Order EA-12-050 without additional regulatory actions.

Process Overview:

- Phase 1 – Containment Wetwell:
 - Plants submitted Phase 1 overall integrated plans (OIPs).
 - NRC Staff reviewed Phase 1 OIPs and issued interim staff evaluations.
 - If needed, NRC staff ask questions and perform regulatory audits.
 - OIPs should be updated every 6 months.
- Phase 2 – Containment Drywell:
 - Plants submit Phase 2 OIPs by December 31, 2015.
 - NRC staff review Phase 2 OIPs and issue interim staff evaluations.
 - If needed, NRC staff ask questions and perform regulatory audits.
 - OIPs should be updated every 6 months.
- NRC staff issues final safety evaluation reports.
- NRC performs post-compliance inspections.

References:

Additional information about containment vents can all be found on the "[Implementation Status](#)" page under the Japan Lessons Learned section of the NRC public Web site.