

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to a request in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. The NRC was directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan and timetable for completing the remaining activities necessary to accept, docket, and support the review of the first application for subsequent license renewal. The plan and timetable are enclosed.

Please feel free to contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776 if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen G. Burns

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Representative Nita Lowey

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Nita Lowey

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Barbara Mikulski

**Plan for Completing Activities to Support
The Review of a Subsequent License
Renewal Application**

The Commission has affirmed that no revisions to either the safety or environmental regulations are needed to support assessment of a subsequent license renewal application. However, the Commission directed the staff to continue to update license renewal guidance, as needed, to provide additional clarity on the implementation of the license renewal regulatory framework.

The three main guidance documents for license renewal are: (1) “Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants,” (Revision 2), (2) “Generic Aging Lessons Learned Report” (Revision 2), and (3) “Standard Review Plan for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants, Supplement 1: Operating License Renewal” (Revision 1). The guidance in these documents is based on plant operation from 40 to 60 years. The staff evaluated this guidance to determine what, if any, revisions are necessary to address issues for 60 to 80 years of plant operation for subsequent license renewal. The staff determined that no revisions were needed to the NRC guidance document entitled, “Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants,” to support environmental reviews to 60 to 80 years. However, the staff determined that the NRC guidance documents titled “Generic Aging Lessons Learned Report” and the “Standard Review Plan for License Renewal” should be updated to allow more effective and efficient review of subsequent license renewal applications.

In mid-December of 2015, the NRC staff issued draft revisions to the two guidance documents for public comment to incorporate the staff’s evaluation of domestic and international operating experience of nuclear plants, lessons learned from the staff review of previous license renewal applications, and assessment of recent research findings.

Since the draft guidance documents were issued, the staff has held numerous public meetings to discuss the proposed revisions and bases for the revisions. The most recent meetings were held on January 21, and February 19, 2016. Going forward, the staff will continue to conduct public outreach activities in order to provide information on the proposed changes to the guidance documents, solicit feedback on the proposed changes, and revise the documents, as appropriate, to reflect the feedback.

The plan and timetable for the remaining activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
Issue final Generic Aging Lessons Learned for Subsequent License Renewal Report (Volumes 1 and 2) and final Standard Review Plan for Review of Subsequent License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants, along with the technical basis for the revisions to these documents	Middle of calendar year 2017
Anticipated first subsequent license renewal application	Early calendar year 2019

Enclosure

When the final guidance documents are issued in mid-2017, the staff will be fully prepared to effectively and efficiently review any subsequent license renewal applications that are submitted.

In addition, the staff has conducted and will continue to pursue active and engaged outreach to stakeholders to identify issues relevant to subsequent license renewal. These efforts include quarterly public meetings with industry representatives, the public and other stakeholders including those who are considering submittal of subsequent license renewal applications. These outreach activities will enable potential applicants to prepare high quality applications, resulting in more effective and efficient NRC review of subsequent license renewal applications.