



SUMMARY OF RIS 2015-2016 EFFORTS

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Summary of RIS 2015-16 Efforts

By letter dated December 17, 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14329A165), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2014-13, "Planned Licensing Action Submittals for All Power Reactor Licensees," which requested that all power reactor licensees voluntarily provide a list of licensing actions planned for the next 3 years, including any planned power uprate applications over the next 5 years. The NRC received clearance from the Office of Management and Budget to submit this annual information collection for 3 years. The purpose of RIS 2014-13 was to assist the NRC in determining resource and budget needs and in planning the technical resources needed to conduct the reviews of the licensing actions. Many of the licensees did not respond to RIS 2014-13 and thus, the data was incomplete and not useful for resource and budget planning.

Subsequently, on November 25, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15266A509), NRC issued RIS 2015-16, "Planned Licensing Action Submittals for All Power Reactor Licensees," which again requested that all power reactor licensees voluntarily provide a list of licensing actions planned for the next 3 years, including any planned power uprate applications over the next 5 years. During additional discussions with industry, it was determined that licensees only have reliable information for 2 years, except for complex activities, such as power uprates. Therefore, a revision to the RIS was issued on January 15, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16013A156) to indicate planned licensing actions for 2 years, rather than 3 years, while extending the response time to February 29, 2016.

All operating reactor licensees responded to RIS 2015-16 with approximately 900 planned submittals, which would result in over 1300 licensing actions projected between fiscal year 2016 through 2018. During regular, routine communications with licensing contacts, the Division of Operating Reactor Licensing (DORL) Project Managers (PMs) typically discuss projected licensing action schedules. Therefore, in an effort to increase efficiency and gather more accurate data, the NRC will discontinue issuance of the RIS and the DORL PMs will update the licensing database on a monthly basis. The NRC anticipates using the updated licensing data to project future workloads and reallocate resources to areas of need. This will allow the technical branches to more accurately prepare anticipated workloads and promote a more agile workforce.

As a result of an extended response due date to voluntary RIS 2015-16, the first quarter of data (January through March) was incomplete. The second quarter of data (April through June) is currently being analyzed for workload and resource planning trends. NRC plans to analyze the data on a monthly basis for internal use and plans to provide a general summary of the analysis to industry on a periodic basis. As the NRC gains experience with this real-time planning process, we will make adjustments on the process based on feedback and usefulness of the data.