

Regulatory Guide Periodic Review

RG Number: 3.46, Revision 0

Title: Standard Format and Content of License Applications, Including Environmental Reports, for In-Situ Uranium Solution Mining

Office/Division/Branch: NMSS/DUWP/URLB

Technical Lead: James Webb/Douglas Mandeville

Staff Action Decided: Reviewed with issues identified for future consideration

1. What are the known technical or regulatory issues with the current version of the Regulatory Guide (RG)?

This RG was issued in June 1982 to provide specific guidance on the format and content of an application, including an environmental report, for an in situ uranium solution mining facility license in order to comply with the NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 51, "Licensing and Regulatory Policy and Procedures for Environmental Protection."

The regulations in 10 CFR Part 51 were revised in 2014 with a new title, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions." As a result, RG 3.46 is not cross-referencing to the correct regulatory citations.

In addition, this RG includes duplicate guidance that is also included in RG 3.8, "Preparation of Environmental Reports for Uranium Mills." Also, draft NUREG-2126, "Standard Review Plan for Conventional Uranium Mill and Heap Leach Facilities — Draft Report for Comment," and NUREG-1569, "Standard Review Plan for In Situ Leach Uranium Extraction License Applications," include information pertaining to the content of both guides.

RG 3.46 is referenced in RG 3.63, "Onsite Meteorological Measurement Program for Uranium Recovery Facilities-Data Acquisition and Reporting."

2. What is the impact on internal and external stakeholders of not updating the RG for the known issues, in terms of anticipated numbers of licensing and inspection activities over the next several years?

There are not any technical or regulatory issues that will be affecting licensing and inspection activities.

3. What is an estimate of the level of effort needed to address identified issues in terms of FTE and contractor resources?

It is estimated that 0.1-0.4 FTE will be needed to consolidate RG 3.8 and RG 3.46.

4. Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the staff action for this RG (Reviewed with no issues identified, Reviewed with issues identified for future consideration, Revise, or Withdraw)?

Reviewed with issues identified for future consideration.

5. Provide a conceptual plan and timeframe to address the issues identified during the review.

As discussed in Management Directive (MD) 6.6, "Regulatory Guides," the NRC staff periodically reviews RGs to ensure that these guides continue to provide useful guidance. The staff will consider the cross-referencing to the correct regulatory citations and any other technical information that may need to be updated during the next periodic review of the guide.

NOTE: This review was conducted in September 2016 and reflects the staff's plans as of that date. These plans are tentative and subject to change.