

2017 National Examiners Conference

Written Examination Changes

NUREG 1021, Revision 11

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Overview

- ES-401(N): Preparing Initial Site-Specific Written Examinations
- ES-402: Administering Initial Written Examinations
- ES-403: Grading Initial Site-Specific Written Examinations
- Appendix B: Written Examination Guidelines
- Revised K/A Catalogs

ES-401 Highlights

- The changes in ES-401 are duplicated in ES-401N with the exception of:
 - ES-401N has examination outlines derived from NUREGs 2103 and 2104
- Added criteria that at least 50% of the SRO-only questions be written at the Comprehension/Analysis level

ES-401 Highlights

- Clarified that RO and SRO questions do not have to have a 10 CFR 55.41 or a 10 CFR 55.43 reference
- Clarified that review of the SRO exam outline is treated as a 100 point exam (for balance of coverage)
- Licensees must provide detailed distractor analysis for each question

ES-401 Highlights

- NRC to develop all written exam outlines
- Examination outlines modified to allow for use of either the current version of the K/A catalogs or the upcoming revision
- Added ability for licensees to submit pre-screened K/As to the Chief Examiner
- Facility management shall review all suggested changes to an exam outline prior to providing feedback to the NRC
- The Chief Examiner is responsible for providing replacement K/As during written exam development

ES-402 Highlights

- Provided guidance related to withdrawal of applications
 - Facility or applicant can request withdrawal
 - Example letters in ES-501, Attachment 6
- Added wording to address “excusals”
- Additional requirement to document all questions and clarifications during written exam and post-exam reviews
- Facility licensee shall collect all comments during exam and post-exam review and provide to the NRC

ES-402 Highlights

- Post-exam comments should include a facility position for all applicant comments
- Post-exam comment period extended from 5 days to 20 days and comments should include docket numbers if applicable
- SRO exam time revised to 9 hours
- Clarified written exam administration time only extended under uncontrollable events

ES-403 Highlights

- Revised post-exam comment period from 5 days to 20 days
- Clarified that post-exam comments can be from the facility licensee and applicants
- Facility licensee recommends question changes and deletions to the Chief Examiner
- Clarified guidance for Form ES-403-1

Appendix B Highlights

- Added a reference to ES-602, Attachment 1, “Guidelines for Developing and Reviewing Open-Reference Examinations” for additional information related to developing examinations

Revised K/A Catalogs

- NUREGs-1122 and 1123, Rev. 3 were issued for a 30-day public comment period on April 17, 2017
- Each Branch Chief was mailed hard copies, also available on the NRC website
- Many redundant K/As were deleted, a few systems were added, and the CE, B&W, and Westinghouse EPEs/APEs were rewritten
- NUREGs-1122 and 1123, Rev. 3 are expected to be finalized by late summer 2017
- Once Rev. 3 of the catalogs are published in final form, the plan is to allow for the current version of the catalogs (Rev. 2, Supp. 1) to be used for exams which occur for up to one additional year

Questions

