

Building a Smarter Fuel Cycle Licensing Program

James Downs, P.E.

Division of Fuel Cycle Safety,
Safeguards, and Environmental Review

Purpose

- Introduce Working Group charter (ADAMS ML19115A011)
- Provide an overview of the licensing process
- Solicit feedback on potential improvements

Working Group Charter

- Conduct holistic assessment of Fuel Cycle licensing program
 - Improve effectiveness and efficiency
 - Engage a broad range of stakeholders
- Establishes Working Group purpose, tasking, and proposed schedule

Summary of Tasking

- Engage stakeholders for feedback
- Assessment of licensing process and associated guidance
- Develop recommendations
- Evaluate recommendations
- Develop report with conclusions and proposed enhancements

Schedule

Activity	Target Date
Identify areas within the guidance that may need to be improved and/or revised to reflect the Office Director memorandum and other risk-informed activities.	end of May 2019 & on-going
<u>Engage Stakeholders</u>	May 2019
<u>Engage Stakeholders</u>	July 2019
Develop draft working group report with identification of proposed enhancements to licensing program.	September 2019
<u>Engage Stakeholders</u>	September 2019
Issue working group proposed enhancements report.	November 2019
Implement enhancements (may be either short term or long term).	Calendar Years 2020-2021

Licensing Process Overview

- Submittal of an application/amendment
- Acceptance review
- Technical review
- Documentation of regulatory decision

Submittal of an Application/Amendment

- Pre-application meeting (optional)
- Regulatory requirements & NRC guidance
- Electronic submission & NRC forms
- Document Control Desk & ADAMS processing
- Opportunity for hearing
- Web Based Licensing

Acceptance Review

- NRC work request (internal)
- NRC kickoff meeting (internal)
- Results of acceptance review
- Acceptance letter
 - estimated completion date
 - estimated total hours
 - estimated cost (including any contract)
- 45 day performance metric for NRC

Technical Review

- Regulatory requirements
- NRC guidance
- Draft safety evaluation report (internal)
- Request for additional information

Documentation of Regulatory Decision

- Concurrence process (internal)
- Respond to application/amendment request on the docket with safety evaluation report and revised NRC license (if applicable)
- Performance metric to complete amendments (80% within 150 days, 100% within 540 days)
- Final NRC housekeeping activities (internal)

Potential for Improvement – Initial Thoughts

- Fuel cycle licensing process is working well
- NRC staff considering some enhancements
 - meeting with applicant during acceptance review to better understand unique aspects
 - providing estimated dates for intermediate milestones with acceptance letter
 - combining multiple steps of the process for simple reviews

Soliciting Input/Feedback

- Open to recommendations for improvement
- Maintain reasonable assurance of adequate protection of safety and security
- Adhere to NRC's Principles of Good Regulation
 - independence
 - openness
 - efficiency
 - clarity
 - reliability