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SEP 24 1975

Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 31,
JULY 11, 1975

1. The Committee discussed issues related to the implementation of Regulatory Guides on existing plants and the concerns expressed in the June 24, 1974 memorandum, A. Giambusso to E. G. Case, subject: REGULATORY GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION, and made the following recommendations and observations:
 - a. Approval of new Regulatory Guides and approval of revisions of existing guides should move forward expeditiously in order that the provisions of these regulatory guides be available for use as soon as possible in on-going or future staff reviews of license applications. The Committee noted that over the recent past, the approval of proposed regulatory guides whose content is acceptable for these purposes has experienced significant delays in RRRC review pending the determination of the applicability of the guide to existing plants, often requiring significant staff effort. To avoid these delays, the Committee concluded that, henceforth, approval of proposed regulatory guides should be uncoupled from the consideration of their backfit applicability.
 - b. The implementation section of new regulatory guides should address, in general, only the applicability of the guide to applications in the licensing review process using, in so far as possible, a standard approach of applying the guide to those applications docketed 8 months after the issuance date of the guide for comment. Exceptions to this general approach will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. The regulatory position of each approved proposed guide (or proposed guide revision) will be characterized by the Committee as to its backfitting potential, by placing it in one of three categories:

Category 1 - Clearly forward fit only. No further staff consideration of possible backfitting is required.

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Category 2 - Further staff consideration of the need for backfitting appears to be required for certain identified items of the regulatory position--these individual issues are such that existing plants need to be evaluated to determine their status with regard to these safety issues in order to determine the need for backfitting.

Category 3 - Clearly backfit. Existing plants should be evaluated to determine whether identified items of the regulatory position are resolved in accordance with the guide or by some equivalent alternative.

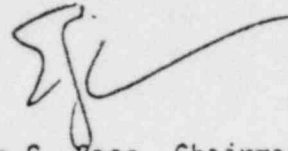
From time to time, for a specific guide, there will probably be some variation among these categories or even within a category, and these three broad category characterizations will be qualified as required to meet a particular situation.

- d. It is not intended that the Committee categorization appear in the guide itself. The purpose of the categorization is to indicate those items of the regulatory position for which the Committee can make a specific backfit recommendation without additional staff work (Categories 1 and 3), and to indicate those items for which additional staff work is required in order to determine backfit considerations (Category 2).
 - e. The Committee recommends that for approved guides in Category 2, staff efforts be initiated in parallel with the process leading to publication of the guide in order that specific backfit requirements for existing plants be determined within a reasonable period of time after publication of the guide.
 - f. The Committee observed that more attention needs to be given to the identification of acceptable alternatives to the positions outlined in the guides in order to provide additional options and flexibility to applicants and licensees, with the possible benefits of additional innovation and exploration in the solution of safety issues.
2. The Committee reviewed the proposed Regulatory Guide 1.XX: THERMAL OVERLOAD PROTECTION FOR MOTORS ON MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES and recommended approval. This guide was characterized by the Committee as Category 1 - no backfitting, with the stipulation that as an appropriate occasion presented itself in conjunction with the review of some particular aspect of existing plants, the thermal overload protection provisions be audited.

3. The Committee reviewed the proposed Regulatory Guide 1.XX: INSTRUMENT SPANS AND SETPOINTS and recommended approval subject to the following comment:

Paragraph 5 of Section C (page 4 of the proposed Guide) should be reworded in light of Committee comments, to the satisfaction of the Director, Office of Standards Development. This guide was characterized by the Committee as Category 1 - no backfit.

4. The Committee reviewed Proposed Regulatory Guide 1.97: INSTRUMENTATION FOR LIGHT WATER COOLED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO ASSESS PLANT CONDITIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT and deferred further consideration to a later meeting in order to permit incorporation of recent comments by the Division of Technical Review.



Edson G. Case, Chairman
Regulatory Requirements Review
Committee

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