



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

RSSB RD

3.

File 5028

JAN 6 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: R. G. Smith, Acting Director
Office of Standards Development

SUBJECT: RULEMAKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION OF SAFETY GRADE
ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT

In the staff meeting on December 18, 1980 you asked for a report on the status and schedule for the rulemaking on environmental qualification of safety grade electric equipment. The task initiation form was approved on December 19, 1980 with NRR and IE concurrence. This rulemaking represents the first of three related rulemaking efforts which address, respectively, the environmental qualification of safety grade electric equipment, the overall qualification of safety grade equipment including mechanical equipment, and the accreditation of laboratories that perform environmental qualification testing.

The subject rule will be developed in close coordination with Z. Rosztoczy, Chief, Equipment Qualification Branch, DE, NRR. Mr. Rosztoczy and his branch are currently reviewing all operating nuclear power plants and those that will be licensed to operate by February 1, 1981 to determine where those plants do not meet the interim environmental qualification criteria of NUREG-0588, "Interim Staff Position on Environmental Qualification of Safety-Related Electrical Equipment," issued for comment in December 1979. NUREG-0588 is currently being revised by NRR subsequent to completion of the comment period. Revision 1 to NUREG-0588 should be issued by March 15, 1981.

Concurrent with development of the subject rule, we plan to revise Regulatory Guide 1.89, "Qualification of Class 1E Equipment for Nuclear Power Plants," to specify, in detail, acceptable methods for meeting the rule. It appears that the revised NUREG-0588 will be the principal basis for the technical content of the guide, appropriately modified by plant review experience, staff comments, on-going research, and public comments. The respective contents of the rule and guide are, however, still under consideration. This decision should be reached in mid-January.

The current approved schedule calls for completion of the initial draft of the subject rule by February 15, 1981, completion of staff review by March 15, ACRS subcommittee review in June, NRR and IE concurrence (subsequent to initial submission to EDO and Commission Staff for review) by August 1, final submission to EDO and Commission by September 15, and publication "for comment" in the Federal Register on December 1, 1981.

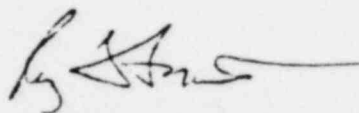
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To: W. J. Dircks

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The rule will address backfitting and the bases thereof in considerable detail as specified in the Commission's Memorandum and Order (CLI-80-21), dated May 23, 1980. This is expected to be the most difficult aspect of its development. At the same time, however, Mr. Rosztoczy's experience in implementing NUREG-0588 should be of assistance to us in developing the necessary positions and justifications.



R. G. Smith, Acting Director
Office of Standards Development