

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2020-0076]

**Volcanic Hazards Assessment for Proposed New
and Advanced Nuclear Power Plants**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft regulatory guide; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment draft regulatory guide (DG), DG-4028, "Volcanic Hazards Assessment for Proposed Nuclear Power Reactor Sites." This DG proposes new guidance for facilitating NRC staff reviews of volcanic hazard assessments performed by applicants to support the siting and licensing of new nuclear power reactors. The DG also provides applicants with the methods and approaches the NRC staff considers acceptable for the assessment of volcanic hazards in license applications.

DATES: Submit comments by 5/20/2020. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

Although a time limit is given, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2020-0076**. Address questions about NRC docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; e-mail:

Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document.

- **Mail comments to:** Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jenise Thompson, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, telephone: 301-415-1811, e-mail:

Jenise.Thompson@nrc.gov; and Edward O’Donnell, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301-415-3317, e-mail:

Edward.ODonnell@nrc.gov. Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2020-0076** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2020-0076**.

- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System**

(ADAMS): You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public

Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "[Begin Web-based ADAMS Search](#)." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The DG-4028 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML20007D621 and the Regulatory Analysis under Accession No. ML20007D618.

- **NRC's PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID **NRC-2020-0076** in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Additional Information

The NRC is issuing for public comment a draft guide in the NRC's "Regulatory Guide" series. This series was developed to describe and make available to the public

information regarding methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific issues or postulated events, and data that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses. The staff is also issuing for public comment a draft Regulatory Analysis. Regulatory Analyses are developed to assess the value of issuing a guide as well as alternative courses of action.

The DG, entitled, "Volcanic Hazards Assessment for Proposed Nuclear Power Reactor Sites," is a proposed new guide temporarily identified by its task number, DG-4028. It provides guidance for facilitating NRC staff reviews of volcanic hazard assessments performed by applicants to support the licensing of new nuclear power reactors. The guide also provides applicants with the methods and approaches the NRC staff considers acceptable for the assessment of volcanic hazards in license applications.

III. Backfitting, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

Issuance of this draft regulatory guide does not constitute backfitting as defined in title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) section 50.109, "Backfitting," and as described in NRC Management Directive 8.4, "Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests" and as described in NRC Management Directive 8.4, "Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests;" would not affect the issue finality of any approval issued under 10 CFR part 52; and would not constitute forward fitting as that term is defined and described in Management Directive 8.4. As explained in the draft regulatory guide, licensees would not be required to comply with the positions set forth in this draft regulatory guide.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of March 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

/RA/

Thomas H. Boyce, Chief,
Regulatory Guidance and Generic Issues
Branch,
Division of Engineering,
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.