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Rules and Directives Branch
Office of Administration
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Comments on Draft Regulatory Guide DG-8022 (Proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 8.15), "Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection"

Reference: Volume 63, Federal Register, Page 40141 (63FR40141), dated July 27, 1998.

This letter provides Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) Company comments on the subject Draft Regulatory Guide noticed in 63FR40141. ComEd generally supports the Draft Regulatory Guide with the exceptions discussed in the comments below.

Page 3: Paragraph 1, end of line 4: "potection" should be "protection."

Page 4, 7, 24: NUREG 0041, "Manual of Respiratory Protection Against Airborne Radioactive Materials, " is referenced as to where to find more information on certain topics. However, since the revision to NUREG 0041 is not yet available, it is not possible to compare content of the Draft Regulatory Guide to that of the NUREG 0041. Thus, it is recommended that the comment period for the Draft Regulatory Guide not expire until after the draft revision for NUREG-0041 is issued for comment. Additionally, consideration should be given to elimination of NUREG 0041 since the information in this document is redundant to the information found in other industry documents.

Page 7: Section 2.2 indicates that a respirator-induced worker inefficiency factor of up to 15% may be used without further justification. It is ComEd's understanding that most nuclear power plant worker default inefficiency factors that are assigned range from 20 to 25% and that these factors are currently acceptable to the NRC as demonstrated during NRC plant inspections. Accordingly, it is recommended that the 15% value be changed to 25%.

Page 8, 10, 11: Section 2.3 and Section 3.6 make somewhat inconsistent statements regarding use of respirators for contamination control

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purposes. Section 2.3 states that use of respirators as contamination control devices in high contamination areas is valid even when there is no clear impact on Total Effective Dose Equivalent (TEDE). Section 3.6 indicates that use of respirators for protection of surface contamination in excess of certain levels is inappropriate and a misapplication without additional justification.

Page 12:

Section 4.3, paragraph 1 - Respirators routinely available for use are already required to be inspected during cleaning and before each use. Respirators are also required to be stored in such a manner to prevent damage or deformation. Therefore, it is recommended that the requirement for a monthly visual inspection be deleted. The monthly inspection is considered to be an unnecessary burden if inspection is performed prior to storing them in plastic bags following cleaning, if stored as required. And per American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard Z88.2-1992, "American National Standard for Respiratory Protection," only respirators stored for emergency or rescue use require monthly inspections.

Section 4.3, paragraph 2 - A recommended addition in italics is included in this paragraph as follows: "Equipment used in conjunction with facepiece respirators (e.g., belt- or mask mounted air regulators, air supply hoses, portable distribution manifolds, etc) *that are routinely available for use* should be inventoried and functionally tested periodically.

Section 4.3, paragraph 3 - Emergency respiratory protection equipment has the potential to be used for radiological as well as nonradiological purposes at facilities. 29 CFR 1910.134 inspection frequency requirements for respirators for use in emergency situations, i.e., Self Contained Breathing Apparatus ((SCBA) and others) is monthly. This guide should meet the minimum occupational Occupational and Safety Health Administration (OSHA) requirements as it attempts to do in most other areas.

Page 13:

Section 4.6 - For clarification, change the title to, "Half-Mask Respirators with High Efficiency ($\geq 99\%$) Filter Media (APF = 10)"

Section 4.6 - Change the first sentence to read, "A relatively new variation on the half-mask respirator is referred to variously as a 'reusable,' 'reusable-disposable,' '*disposable*,' or 'maintenance-free,' device."

Page 14:

Section 4.6, paragraph at the top of the page - A recommended change in italics is included in the next to the last sentence as follows. "They are acceptable to the NRC as long as they are made of high efficiency ($\geq 99\%$)_filter media, a fit check can be properly performed by the wearer donning, and all other requirements (e.g., *medical evaluation, training, fit testing*) are fulfilled."

Page 14, 15:

Section 4.7 - For clarification, change the title to, "Single-Use Disposable Respirators with Filter Media Efficiency $< 99\%$ "

Clarification should be made that the reason why these single-use respirators may not be used with an associated protection factor is that their filter efficiency is less than 99%. However, if an employer issues them to an employee, they must still be used as a respirator. As such, the employer would be required to follow the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.134, including medical evaluations, training, and fit testing. There are allowances for employees to use these types of respirators upon request even though respiratory protection is not required, such as for nuisance dust.

Thus, there is an inconsistency between OSHA regulations and this Draft Regulatory Guide where the Draft Regulatory Guide relieves licensees of the requirement to medically screen and fit-test wearers of single-use respirators. It would be difficult for an employer to require employee medical evaluations and fit testing for use of this type of respirator under one regulation and not another.

The ability to obtain a fit factor with single-use respirators is the same as those in Section 4.6, because some of these models are available with plastic, rubber, or similar elastomeric material applied to the entire facepiece seal area.

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It is recommended that this section of the Draft Regulatory Guide discuss the issue of face sealing capabilities vs. non-face sealing capabilities of a respirator and how this affects the ability of disposable respirators to achieve a possible Assigned Protection Factor (APF) of 10.

Page 18:

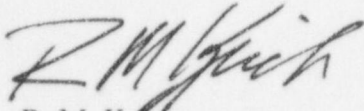
Section 5.1 – Information received from ANSI by ComEd indicates that ANSI Z88.6-1984 has been “withdrawn” and is no longer available from ANSI.

Section 5.1 - Include the recognition that following medical evaluations conducted in accordance with OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.134 would meet the requirements outlined in this Draft Regulatory Guide.

Page 20:

Section 5.3, paragraph at the bottom of the page - Delete the last paragraph. More than one satisfactory fit is no longer a requirement in 29 CFR 1910.134.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R M Krich', written in a cursive style.

R. M. Krich
Vice President – Regulatory Services