

## **SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION**



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 30, 2020

Letter to Multiple Addressees  
(See Enclosed Distribution List)

**SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF REGULATORY GUIDE 5.76, REVISION 1, "PHYSICAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS AT NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS**

Dear Mr. or Ms. Last Name:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing the enclosed Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.76, Rev. 1, "Physical Protection Programs at Nuclear Power Reactors (Enclosure 2)." Specifically, Sections 1.2 and 5 have been revised to provide implementation guidance on the "Reasonable Assurance of Protection Time (RAPT)," concept discussed in SECY-20-0070, "Technical Evaluation of the Security Bounding Time Concept for Operating Nuclear Power Plants," dated July 30, 2020. Regulatory Guide 5.76, Rev. 1 is controlled as Safeguards Information (SGI).

The RAPT reflects the staff's determination that a licensee's current physical protection program meets the general performance objective of 10 CFR 73.55(b)(1) to provide reasonable assurance that "activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety." A licensee may demonstrate reasonable assurance by having a physical protection program that allows the site to independently defend against the Design Basis Threat (DBT) for a minimum of eight hours from recognition of an attack. This eight-hour time is hereinafter referred to as the RAPT. The RAPT provides reasonable assurance through a framework that considers how the many existing layers of defense, safety and security, work together for protection of the site. After the RAPT, there is a reduced risk profile and licensees can reasonably expect to have additional resources available, such as law enforcement and/or recalled off-duty personnel, to provide support for the licensee to continue to defend against the DBT. Although a licensee remains bound by regulation to continue to protect its site following the RAPT, the staff recognizes that its response to an attack will likely be augmented with these additional resources. The RAPT will enable licensees to refine their protective strategies in a risk-informed manner. While implementation of the RAPT might require some revisions to site documentation, it does not require any additional commitments beyond the current regulatory framework.

WARNING: Violation of Section 147 of the Atomic Energy Act, "Safeguards Information" is subject to Civil and Criminal Penalties

When separated from Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2, this document is Uncontrolled.

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The regulatory guide series was developed to describe and make available to stakeholders information such as 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 problems or postulated accidents, and data that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses. This RG describes methods that the staff considers acceptable for licensees and applicants to employ to comply with the Commission's regulations on physical security measures for licensees authorized to operate nuclear power plants.

If you have any questions regarding RG 5.76, Rev. 1, please contact Gary Purdy of my staff by e-mail at [Gary.Purdy@nrc.gov](mailto:Gary.Purdy@nrc.gov) or by telephone at 301-287-3629.

Sincerely,

Shana R. Helton, Director  
Division of Physical and Cyber Security Policy  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

Enclosures:

1. Distribution List
2. Regulatory Guide 5.76 Rev. 1, "Physical Protection Programs at Nuclear Power Reactors" (SGI)

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