



## Smarter Fuel Cycle Licensing Program

July 2021 Status

### BACKGROUND

The NRC staff developed a charter dated April 26, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML19115A016](#)) for building a smarter fuel cycle licensing program. It directed the Working Group (WG) to seek and evaluate input from NRC staff and stakeholders (e.g., industry, Nuclear Energy Institute). On April 30, 2020, the NRC staff issued recommendations for addressing the feedback from both internal and external stakeholders (ADAMS Accession No. [ML20099F354](#)). The suggestions ranged from simple procedure changes, such as more frequent communication with applicants to more resource intensive projects such as development of standard review plans (e.g., update NUREG-1520).

Division management endorsed the implementation of the recommendations and directed the staff to develop an action plan (AP), first published July 10, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML20184A267](#)). The AP grouped the implementation of the recommendations into three general categories: Near-term actions anticipated to be completed by Fall-2021, Mid-term actions anticipated to be completed by Early-2022, and Long-term actions with completion dates beyond 2022, (note: completion dates have been updated).

The smarter licensing team is working to incorporate the Near-term recommendations into division instructions (DIs) which will provide guidance on the procedures for Division of Fuel Management licensing activities. The DIs are entitled:

- LIC-FM-1, "Licensing Overview,"
- LIC-FM-2, "Acceptance Review Process,"
- LIC-FM-3, "Requests for Additional Information," and
- LIC-FM-4, "Safety Evaluation Reports."

Work on the Mid-Term recommendations to develop job-aids, templates, and training have started and will progress further as the NRC staff transition from DI development to implementation. Some of the Long-term recommendations are under development (e.g., guidance for management turnover and a standard review plan for licensing greater than critical mass facilities) and will progress further as resources and priorities allow.

### OBJECTIVE

To provide a status update on the staff's ongoing efforts to revise and implement approved smarter licensing recommendations, which consist of Near-, Mid-, and Long-term recommendations.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Provided status update at the fuel facilities stakeholder meeting, 03/24-25/2021, see [ML21120A058](#).
2. Provided status update at the fuel facilities stakeholder meeting, June 16, 2021, see [ML21200A120](#).
3. Incorporating Near- and Mid-term recommendations into the DIs (LIC-FM-1, -2, -3, and -4).
4. Implementing recommendations as summarized in the table below.

### NEXT STEPS

1. Finalize the DIs by Fall 2021.
2. Develop job-aids and conduct training on the recommendations in the finalized DIs by early 2022.
3. Review DIs to identify portions that can be made public in early 2022.
4. Proceed with implementation of the Mid- and Long-Term recommendations

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