



POLICY ISSUE

(Information)

August 19, 2026

SECY-26-0103

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: Michael F. King
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT ON THE REVIEW ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE
TO REVIEW GENERIC REQUIREMENTS

PURPOSE:

This paper provides the Commission with the annual report of the activities of the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR or the Committee). The report covers the period from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. For the purposes of this report, the terms “backfit” and “backfitting” include the terms “forward fitting” and “issue finality.” This paper does not contain any new commitments or resource implications.

BACKGROUND:

The Committee has evaluated and reported its activities to the Commission each year since 1997. This report summarizes the backfit reviews the Committee performed during the reporting period and includes the results of the CRGR’s annual self-assessment.

Categories of CRGR Backfit Reviews

The CRGR Charter describes three categories of Committee reviews:

- (1) Routine Review (Category 1): A review in which the matter does not appear to contain backfitting issues and can be handled through email discussions.

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- (2) Complex Review (Category 2): A review in which it is evident that the matter has significant technical and process complexity, backfitting, or potential backfitting, and is handled in a formal setting where the sponsoring staff provides a presentation to the CRGR.
- (3) Complex Review with External Involvement (Category 3): A review with all the elements of a Category 2 review that includes a separate public meeting (if requested by external parties) with the CRGR to provide context for its deliberation.

Revision 9 of “Committee to Review Generic Requirements Procedures and Internal Administrative Process,” dated June 26, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17355A533), provides additional detail on these review categories.

DISCUSSION:

CRGR Backfit Reviews

During this review period, the CRGR conducted one complex review. The Committee evaluated the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff’s proposed rule changes associated with Section 5(f) of Executive Order 14300, “Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,” dated May 23, 2025. These changes sought to (1) strengthen the threshold for NRC-initiated modifications by removing “increased standardization” as a basis for altering design certifications or issuing plant-specific orders or departure requests, and (2) reduce regulatory burden for licensee-requested changes during construction under combined licenses referencing certified designs, through revisions to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 52, “Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants,” and related appendices. The staff presented proposals to eliminate standardization-based criteria for NRC-demanded changes during construction and discussed proposed definitions and clarifying language for Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 2* information.

After reviewing the proposal and participating in follow-up discussions, the CRGR identified no backfit or issue finality concerns and fully endorsed the staff’s proposed rule changes. The staff transmitted these proposed changes to the Commission in SECY-26-0019, “Proposed Rule, W1-6: Modernizing Reactor Licensing, Safety Oversight, and Siting Practices (RIN 3150-AL44)” (ML25288A073), dated February 11, 2026. The Commission subsequently issued the staff requirements memorandum for SECY-26-0019 on May 6, 2026 (ML26126A351).

CRGR Annual Self-Assessment

Due to the accelerated schedule associated with Executive Order 14300, the review above was conducted efficiently to avoid delays. The CRGR clearly communicated the documentation requirements necessary to support an efficient review and Committee discussion. The staff submitted the proposed rule and supporting documentation with sufficient information to enable the Committee to conduct its evaluation without requiring significant additional information. The CRGR promptly established a quorum and completed its review within the required timeframe without impact to the overall project schedule.

CONCLUSION:

The CRGR stands ready to support the NRC program offices in the effective implementation of the Commission's backfitting policy. The CRGR will continue to coordinate closely with the NRC program offices to support updates to the agency's backfit program as needed.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed this package and has no legal objection.



Signed by Caroline Carusone Signing on
behalf of Mike King on 08/19/26

Michael F. King
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for Operations

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REVIEW GENERIC REQUIREMENTS. DATED: AUGUST 19, 2026

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