

Drop-In Notice and Summary

September 28, 2026

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS
DROP-IN VISIT WITH BWXT NUCLEAR OPERATIONS GROUP –
LYNCHBURG (NOG-L) ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

TIME: 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

MEETING ATTENDEES:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	BWXT NOG-L
Shana Helton, Deputy Director, NMSS	Daniel Ashworth (Licensing Manager)
Cinthy Roman, Director, NMSS/DFC	Julian Yates (Dep. Licensing Manager)
Tekia Govan, Chief, NMSS/DFC/FLB2	
Mike McCoppin, Chief, NMSS/DFM/FLB1	
Robert Sun, Chief, NMSS/SFST/ERMB	
James Downs, Senior Project Manager, NMSS/DFC/FLB2	

TOPICS:

- SNM-42 for BWXT NOG-L (Cat I fuel fabrication facility) expires on 03/29/2027.
- A proposed change to § 70.73, “Renewal of licenses,” would add a sentence that says: “A renewal application should be narrowly focused on the scope of the renewal and contain as few documents as possible.” Final rule expected to be effective in mid-2027.
- BWXT NOG-L plans to submit a license renewal application for SNM-42 by 10/30/2026.
 - Submittal will not request changes to any conditions or programmatic content.
 - Renewal will include an updated environmental report.
 - BWXT NOG-L is in favor of an NRC response that acknowledges receipt of the renewal application and confirms “timely renewal” – but defers acceptance review until guidance on the renewal of licenses under 10 CFR Part 70 is finalized.
 - Acknowledgement (preferred by January 2027) of “timely renewal” is consistent with previous renewals (e.g., 1989 – [ML20245F849](#)). In accordance with § 70.38(a), “Each specific license expires at the end of the day on the expiration date stated in the license unless the licensee has filed an application for renewal under § 70.33 not less than 30 days before the expiration date stated in the existing license. If an application for renewal has been filed at least 30 days before the expiration date stated in the existing license, the existing license expires at the end of the day on which the Commission makes a final determination to deny the renewal application or, if the determination states an expiration date, the expiration date stated in the determination.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

SNM-42 was originally issued by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to Babcock & Wilcox (B&W), Naval Nuclear Fuel Division (NNFD), on August 22, 1956. In 1997, the NRC approved the transfer of SNM-42 from B&W to BWX Technologies (BWXT). In 2008, the NRC approved the transfer of SNM-42 from BWXT to BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc. (BWXT NOG).

SNM-42 was first renewed on June 30, 1965, for a 3-year period. The expiration date was extended at least eight times until November 27, 1974, when after 72 amendments had been issued, the license was rewritten incorporating all the amendments and license conditions and was on "timely renewal" until after the Environmental Impact Appraisal was issued on March 9, 1977. A renewed license was issued on March 23, 1977 (expiring March 31, 1982). By letter dated February 22, 1982, NNFD filed a renewal application and the license remained in effect in accordance with the "timely renewal" provisions of the regulations. On May 31, 1984, a renewed license was issued with an expiration date of May 31, 1989. By letter dated January 19, 1989, NNFD requested that the expiration date be extended to August 31, 1989. NNFD submitted a renewal application on July 31, 1989. A renewed license was issued on October 1, 1995 (following the 1994 consolidation of the Lynchburg Research Center license, SNM-778, into SNM-42). On March 29, 2007, the NRC renewed BWXT's license SNM-42 for a period of 20 years, which allows operations until March 29, 2027.

SUMMARY:

The discussion during the meeting aligned with the information presented in the above "Topics" section.

Name of Summary Author: James Downs

Date of Notice: September 28, 2026