

USNRC RIC 2017

Traveler Review and Approval Process

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There are STS for each major reactor design.

- Babcock and Wilcox – NUREG-1430
- Westinghouse – NUREG-1431
- Combustion Engineering – NUREG-1432
- General Electric BWR/4 – NUREG-1433
- General Electric BWR/6 – NUREG-1434
- Westinghouse AP-1000 – NUREG-2194

2

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The TSTF submits travelers to request changes to the STS.

STS
NUREG

+

Approved
Traveler

→

Revised
STS

3

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All submitted Travelers are expected to contain a model application license amendment request (LAR).

```
graph LR; A[Technical Basis and Proposed TS Changes] --> C[Traveler]; B[Model application (LAR)] --> C;
```

4

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The Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP) improves Traveler review efficiency.

- Applies to subset of Travelers
- Uses shorter review time target for LAR (6 months instead of one year)
- Maximum credit is taken for review that was performed on the traveler

5

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The revised Traveler review process involves four steps.

```
graph LR; A[Acceptance Review] --> B[Requests for Additional Information (RAIs)]; B --> C[Draft Safety Evaluations (SEs)]; C --> D[Final SEs];
```

6

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The acceptance review is similar to process for accepting LARs.



7

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The RAI process is similar to LAR review process, and can be used to request changes to the model application.



8

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There are two draft safety evaluations, a draft Traveler SE and a draft model SE. Both are publicly available.



9

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The draft traveler SE documents the basis for approval of the Traveler, that is, the change to the STS NUREG(s).

10

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The draft model SE is used as a template for plant-specific LARs when adopting the traveler.

11

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Both the draft traveler SE and draft model SE are publicly sent to the TSTF for comment.

12

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The two final SEs are issued to the TSTF and are publicly available.

```

    graph LR
      A[Acceptance Review] --> B[RAIs]
      B --> C[Draft SEs]
      C --> D[Final SEs]
      D --- E[Final Traveler SE]
      D --- F[Final Model SE]
  
```

13

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The NRC staff has already implemented some improvements prior to the issuance of a revised LIC-600.

- Stopped publishing Federal Register notices for Traveler reviews.
- NRC staff forms teams to efficiently respond to large quantities of Travelers submitted for review.

14

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The NRC staff plans to implement a number of improvements of the Traveler Process in a revised LIC-600, expected to be titled, "Traveler Review and Adoption Process"

- Clearer guidance for acceptance review of travelers.
- More thorough work planning for traveler reviews to be sure no technical expertise are omitted from review.

15

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The revised LIC-600 includes more opportunities for engagement.

- Hold pre-submittal meetings for all new traveler submittals.
- Engaging management earlier if issues arise during traveler review.

16

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If issues arise with approved Travelers, the NRC may suspend the traveler.

- Having a suspension process in place and documented in LIC-600 will improve consistency.
- Not all issues with Travelers will result in suspension.

17

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Below is a thumbnail sketch of how issues with travelers will be treated.

```

graph LR
    A[Vet issue with peers and management] --> B[If safety significant, publicly notify the TSTF]
    B --> C[Hold public meeting]
    C --> D[Determine path forward  
• Non generic issues will involve plant RAIs]
  
```

18

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There are four potential outcomes from Traveler issues.

Suspend NRC approval	Revise Traveler
Outcome	
No changes	Respond via other "generic communication"

19

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The NRC staff and TSTF have worked to make the Traveler process efficient, effective and transparent.

Acceptance Review → RAs → Draft SEs → Final SEs

20
