



## Addressing Lessons Learned from 10 CFR Part 52 Licensing Experience – a Licensee’s Perspective

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### Licensing Experience Topic Areas

- Part 52 Vision
- Current Part 52 Reality
- License Amendment Requests (LARs)
- Preliminary Amendment Requests (PARs)
- Future State
- Summary

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### Part 52 Vision

- Part 52 is a “one step” licensing process
- Encourages standardization
- Provides efficiency and regulatory certainty
- Allows for streamlined construction schedule
- Minimizes delays between construction and operation

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### Current Part 52 Reality

- Changes to license are necessary during construction due to finalization of design and emergent issues identified during construction
- New issues are identified which require increased licensee and regulator involvement to resolve (e.g., Commission Approved Simulator)
- First use of Regulations have revealed areas for improvement to increase certainty for licensees
- Volume of Tier 2\* material significantly increases number of required License Amendment Requests, in some cases for changes with little or no safety significance



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### License Amendment Requests (LARs)

- The volume of LARs for a Part 52 plant is significantly larger than a Part 50 plant (Tier 1, Tier 2\*, etc.) and begins during construction
- NRO is very responsive to LARs and processes them in a timely manner
- LARs during construction have the potential to delay construction for issues identified during construction
- Pre-submittal meetings can offer benefit to ensure that staff and licensee have clear communication on intent and scope of change prior to submittal



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### Preliminary Amendment Requests (PARs)

- Process developed to allow "construction at risk" once scope of change has been identified and associated LAR has been accepted for technical review
- PAR process has supported construction thus far due to the licensee's ability to re-sequence work activities and timely response from the NRC
- PAR process is limited in timeliness due to the requirement to develop full LAR and have it accepted for technical review prior to issuance of "no objection letter"
- PAR process may not support emergent conditions identified in the future without an impact to construction



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**Future State – Potential Steps to Address Part 52 Limitations**

- Long term – Industry and Staff should work together to identify additional changes to regulations and/or industry/staff guidance to minimize uncertainty, “right-size” regulatory requirements, and provide clear direction
- Short Term – SNC has proposed a LAR which offers a way to address the limitations of the PAR process



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**Future State – Potential Steps to Address Part 52 Limitations**

- Limitations of the PAR process
  - SNC has submitted a proposed LAR to add an “Interim Amendment Request (IAR)” process to the COL
  - The IAR process does not replace the PAR process but rather supplements it
  - This process would address the timeliness issue of the current PAR process in emergent circumstances where a non-conforming condition is discovered during construction and the work activity cannot be adjusted to allow construction to proceed until the non-conforming condition is resolved
  - This process would only be utilized if the following conditions are met:
    - The scope of the proposed change is identified
    - Emergent conditions are present
    - The proposed change would not result in any material decrease in safety
    - Continued construction would not make the non-conforming condition irreversible



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**Summary**

- There are still opportunities to enhance the existing processes for plants under construction
- The NRC Staff has been very responsive to licensee submittals
- The Industry has worked to maintain standardization for new plants being built
- The next round/generation of plants will benefit from the experience obtained on these first plants licensed under the Part 52 process; the Part 52 process has the potential to be more effective and efficient once the initial plants for a particular design are complete and the regulatory framework is adjusted based on lessons learned



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