

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR REACTOR
SAFEGUARDS**

**REVISION TO PARAGRAPH (a)(3) OF THE
MAINTENANCE RULE**

10CFR 50.65

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BACKGROUND

- ! SECY 97-055 (3/97) - described problems with rule language (...assessment “should” be taken into account...)”)
- ! SRM 97-055 (4/97) - staff to consider clarifying (a)(3) and provide examples of weak programs found during baseline inspections (MRBI)
- ! SECY 97-173 (8/97) - provided three options for (a)(3): (1) no changes; (2) change “should” to “shall” only; (3) comprehensive change - staff recommended option (2)
- ! SRM 97-173 (12/97) - change (a)(3) per option (2) and prepare proposed rule:
 - change last sentence of (a)(3) to (a)(4) with prescribed language making pre-maintenance assessments a requirement
 - add preamble with prescribed language to clarify that rule applies during all normal plant conditions including shutdown (add preamble)
 - perform limited regulatory analysis of option (1)
 - limit regulatory analysis of option (3), but consider future (a)(4) rulemaking to propose RG 1.160/NUMARC 93-01 safety assessment methods be incorporated by reference
 - ensure consistency with other related rulemaking efforts

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE ISSUED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (SECY 98-165)

Add preamble to state that the rule is applicable during all conditions of plant operation, including normal shutdown operations.

Pre-maintenance assessments

- ! delete last sentence of (a)(3)

- ! add new (a)(4) paragraph
 - shall perform assessments
 - before performing maintenance activities
 - assess current plant configuration and expected changes
 - determine overall effect on performance of safety functions
 - use results of assessments
 - ensure plant not placed in configurations that:
 - ▶ are risk significant
 - ▶ would degrade performance of safety functions to an unacceptable level

REASONS FOR RULE CHANGES

- ! Clarify that rule requirements are applicable during normal shutdown conditions
- ! Industry increasing amount and frequency of maintenance at power
- ! Inadequacies found with (a)(3) assessments during baseline inspections
- ! Technical Specifications not intended to address multiple equipment out-of-service simultaneously
- ! Current (a)(3) assessment is a recommendation, therefore is not enforceable

PUBLIC COMMENT CATEGORIES

- ! Terms need to be defined (e.g., “risk significant configuration”)
- ! Assessments should only be required for SSCs that are removed from service
- ! (a)(4) requirement duplicates technical specification requirements (e.g., Configuration Risk Management Program - CRMP)
- ! (a)(4) assessments should not be required for non or low safety significant SSCs
- ! Documentation requirements are not specified
- ! Regulatory Guide needs revision to include information on:
 - when assessments would not be required
 - type of assessments during shutdown conditions
 - documentation for assessments

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ! (a)(4) language revised to clarify the use of assessments
- ! Assessments must be performed for all maintenance activities that could impact plant safety (e.g., transient initiators)
- ! Technical specifications were not intended to address multiple equipment out-of-service simultaneously
- ! Requests for deletion of Technical Specification Configuration Risk Management Program (CRMP) will be processed after 50.65(a)(4) becomes effective
- ! Combinations of out-of-service low safety significant SSCs must be evaluated for the impact on plant safety
- ! Licensees need to document process used to implement (a)(4).
- ! Regulatory Guide 1.160 will be revised to incorporate implementation guidance for (a)(4) assessments, including shutdown and documentation

MODIFIED (a)(4) LANGUAGE

Before performing maintenance activities on structures, systems or components within the scope of this section (including but not limited to surveillance, post-maintenance testing, corrective and preventive maintenance), the licensee shall assess and manage any increases in risk that may result from the proposed maintenance activities.

STAFF PLANS

- ! Forward rule change with clarified language to Commission with recommendation that effective date be after Regulatory Guide is issued final (April)
- ! Draft revision to Regulatory Guide 1.160 and issue for comment (April)
- ! Incorporate any changes to RG 1.160 (June)
- ! Issue RG 1.160 final (July)