

September 25, 1997

SECY-97-216

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: L. Joseph Callan /s/
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STANDARD REVIEW PLAN FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

PURPOSE:

To inform the Commission of the status of the development of a standard review plan for license renewal.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission amended the license renewal rule (10 CFR Part 54) in 1995. As discussed in SECY-97-118, dated June 5, 1997, the staff and industry are engaged in a number of activities associated with implementing this rule. One of these activities is the development of a standard review plan for license renewal (SRP-LR).

The staff placed a revised working draft of the SRP-LR in the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) and will publish the draft SRP-LR after it reviews several applications for license renewal.

DISCUSSION:

The SRP-LR offers guidance to the staff for reviewing applications for license renewal. A working draft of the SRP-LR, reflecting the proposed rule amendment, was made publicly available in the PDR on December 13, 1995.

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As directed by the Commission in a June 28, 1993, staff requirements memorandum, the staff incorporated the technical information and agreements from its earlier review of Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC, now the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)) industry reports addressing license renewal in the working draft of the SRP-LR.

Since then, the staff and industry have gained additional experience with the implementation of the amended rule. The staff has revised the working draft of the SRP-LR to incorporate the following information:

- (1) experience gained to date from the staff's review of plant-specific technical reports and owners group topical reports addressing license renewal
- (2) experience gained from the staff's development of a draft regulatory guide for license renewal which proposes to endorse NEI 95-10, Revision 0, "Industry Guideline for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 54 — The License Renewal Rule"
- (3) the final amended rule, including administrative requirements
- (4) the staff's preliminary assessment of the recent 10 CFR 50.55a rule amendment on containment inservice inspections with respect to license renewal requirements
- (5) the staff's evaluation of the generic safety issue (GSI) on metal fatigue
- (6) the staff's evaluation of its Structural Action Plan
- (7) industry comments on NUREG-1557, "Summary of Technical Information and Agreements from Nuclear Management and Resources Council Industry Reports Addressing License Renewal," which documents technical information from the NUMARC industry reports
- (8) development of national codes and standards addressing aging management of safety-related electric equipment.

The staff plans to use the working draft of the SRP-LR in its future reviews of plant-specific technical reports and owners group topical reports, as appropriate. By focusing on the review of aging management of actual plant structures and components, the staff and the industry would gain a better understanding of the implementation issues involved in the license renewal rule. Lessons learned from the trial use of the working draft of the SRP-LR and draft regulatory guide for license renewal would provide feedback to further improve the working draft. As such, the working draft of the SRP-LR is a living document.

Some examples of areas in which staff review guidance would be further developed based on experience with the working draft of the SRP-LR are:

- (1) docketing of a timely and sufficient renewal application
- (2) crediting existing programs for managing aging of long-lived passive structures and components
- (3) establishing review criteria necessary to make the finding in 10 CFR 54.29.

The staff plans to focus on plant-specific and owners group reviews of actual plant structures and components to gain needed experience with implementation of the rule and the working draft of the SRP-LR. As discussed in SECY-97-118, the staff intends to gain additional experience before proceeding with formal approval of the SRP-LR and regulatory guide for license renewal. During the review of technical reports and initial renewal applications, the staff, licensees, owners groups, and other interested parties will identify technical and procedural issues resulting from the trial application of the working draft of the SRP-LR. The staff will develop revisions to the working draft in conjunction with the resolution of issues related to the staff's evaluation of the particular affected technical reports or renewal applications. At appropriate times, the staff will correspond with NEI and will arrange public meetings to address (1) the generic aspects of both technical and procedural issues and (2) possible changes to NEI 95-10, "Industry Guideline for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 54 — The License Renewal Rule." Policy issues will be referred to the Commission, for resolution. The resolution of all of these issues will be documented in the supporting justification for the SRP-LR and the regulatory guide for license renewal.

As discussed in SECY-97-118, the staff plans to publish the draft SRP-LR after it reviews several applications for license renewal. The draft SRP-LR is tentatively scheduled to be published for public comment in early 2001.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed this paper and has no legal objection to it.

RESOURCES:

This paper presents the status of the development of the SRP-LR and does not involve changes in resource requirements. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this Commission paper for resource implications and has no objections.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

No impact on information management or information technology is anticipated.

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for Operations