

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

February 3, 2003

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2003-02
IMPORTANCE OF GIVING NRC ADVANCE NOTICE
OF INTENT TO PURSUE LICENSE RENEWAL**

ADDRESSEES

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to emphasize to addressees the importance of providing the NRC with advance notice of their plans for license renewal so that the NRC staff can better plan and budget for the processing of renewal applications. This RIS does not transmit or imply any new or changed requirements or staff positions. The submission of advance notice of addressee plans in this area is strictly voluntary; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

BACKGROUND

On November 14, 2000, the NRC issued RIS 2000-20, "Importance of Industry Providing NRC Advance Notice of Intent To Pursue License Renewal," to emphasize to licensees the importance of notifying the NRC early regarding their plans for submitting license renewal applications. Responses to RIS 2000-20 have allowed the NRC to plan and budget for applications projected for receipt through fiscal year (FY) 2005. However, the NRC has received little information regarding licensee plans to submit applications in FY 2006 and beyond. The NRC has begun the FY 2005 budgeting process, which includes projections of applications to be received through FY 2006. The review of renewal applications involves significant NRC resources, and the number of applications and the date of submittal greatly impact resource requirements. As discussed below, voluntary submission of licensee plans regarding license renewal would assist the NRC in its budgeting and planning processes.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

To improve the accuracy of resource forecasts, the NRC is asking that all power reactor licensees provide advance notice if they intend to pursue license renewal, and that each licensee provide the anticipated schedule for filing its license renewal application. In addition, licensees are encouraged to notify the NRC as soon as possible of any changes in previously

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announced schedules for filing such applications. The NRC will use the application filing schedule information in the planning and budgeting of agency resources. Because of the resource implications associated with each application, the NRC will budget its resources on the basis of known applications. Applications received for which the NRC has not received advance notice will be assessed using the integrated planning, budgeting, and performance management process and scheduled to the extent practical on a case-by-case basis.

In the past, licensees were encouraged to notify NRC in writing of their plans to submit a license renewal application, but oral notifications were also accepted. However, with the success of the license renewal program and the efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the process, the NRC expects to see continued licensee interest in submitting license renewal applications. Due to the uncertainty of oral statements of plans to submit applications and the substantial resources that must be allocated for each application, the NRC intends in the future to only budget for applications for which written notification has been received.

If a licensee determines that scheduling information for a license renewal application is proprietary in nature because it represents confidential financial or commercial information, the licensee may submit an affidavit pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b), to have the information withheld from public disclosure. The affidavit should contain the basis for withholding the information from public disclosure.

VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

Addressees that choose to provide advance notice of intent to pursue license renewal or to notify the NRC of changes in previously announced schedules for filing license renewal applications in accordance with the guidance contained in this RIS should direct their responses to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS requires no action or written response. Any action on the part of addressees to provide advance notice of intent to pursue license renewal or to notify the NRC of changes in previously announced schedules for filing applications in accordance with the guidance contained in this RIS, for the purpose of aiding the NRC in planning the use of its resources, is strictly voluntary. Therefore, this is not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, and the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

A notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS was not published in the *Federal Register* because it pertains to an administrative aspect of the regulatory process that involves the voluntary submission of information by addressees.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS contains a voluntary information collection that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). This voluntary information collection is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance number 3150-0011. The public reporting burden for this voluntary information collection is estimated to average 8 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to infocollects@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0011), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the person listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation project manager.

/RA/

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