

Withdrawn

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2009-11, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated July 16, 2009, has been withdrawn.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML091470309

See *Federal Register* notice 81 FR 31969, dated
May 20, 2016

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

July 16, 2009

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2009-11
PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

ADDRESSEES

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

All holders of, and applicants for, nuclear power plant construction permits, early site permits, and limited work authorizations for a power reactor under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 50.

All holders of, and applicants for, a combined license, manufacturing license, standard design certification, or standard design approval for a power reactor under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the NRC staff's need for updated information on the projected schedules for site-specific operator licensing examinations and on the estimated numbers of applicants planning to take operator licensing examinations and the NRC's generic fundamentals examinations (GFEs). This information will help the NRC to use its resources more effectively. This RIS requires no action or written response on the part of addressees. Addressee actions to collect and transmit the information requested are strictly voluntary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under 10 CFR 55.40, "Implementation," of Subpart E, "Written Examinations and Operating Tests," the NRC permits nuclear power facility licensees to prepare, proctor, and grade the written examinations required by 10 CFR 55.41, "Written Examination: Operators," and to prepare the NRC-administered operating tests required by 10 CFR 55.45, "Operating Tests." Under 10 CFR 55.43, "Written Examination: Senior Operators," the NRC requires that certain conditions be satisfied. Under 10 CFR 55.40(c), facility licensees that choose not to prepare their own examinations and operating tests must request in writing that the NRC prepare the examinations and the operating tests.

In RIS 2008-16, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated June 27, 2008, the NRC asked power reactor licensees to submit proposed schedules of

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examinations that they intended to prepare and to estimate the number of applicants to be tested in site examinations and GFEs in calendar years (CYs) 2009–2012.

The objective of this RIS is to update examination schedules and applicant estimates for CYs 2010–2012 and to add an estimate for CY 2013.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

The NRC uses nearly twice as many resources to prepare an examination as it does to review, approve, administer, and document a licensee-prepared examination. The number of examinations administered by licensees fluctuates from year to year. Consequently, the NRC has found it helpful to request an annual update from power reactor facility licensees of their needs for initial operator licensing examinations. Moreover, with the anticipated number of new operator positions that will need to be filled for new plants, and the subsequent need to backfill the current positions, the differences in upcoming years could be significant. Therefore, the NRC requests that facilities evaluate their response to this RIS in this light, particularly in the latter years. The update should include an estimate of the number of applicants to be examined and whether the licensee or the NRC will prepare the exam. Those utilities not planning to construct a new plant should consider in their response the impact of licensed operators moving between utilities to fill the many anticipated openings in the future. This information will help the NRC budget its resources. The NRC regional offices will continue to coordinate specific examination dates with the training managers of the affected facilities.

The NRC is requesting that each licensee provide the information listed below on the enclosed NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data."

A. Proposed Examination Preparation Schedule

Estimate the number of examinations you intend to prepare and the number of examinations you will ask the NRC to prepare during CYs 2010–2013. For the examinations that facility licensees will prepare, the NRC will assume that each examination includes the required outline, the written examination, and the operating test unless otherwise specified. Joint NRC/licensee examination development is permitted and should be coordinated with the NRC regional office.

B. Initial Operator License Examinations

For each desired examination, estimate the number of applicants to be tested and enter the proposed primary and alternate dates of the examination. If you are requesting more than one examination per CY, split the applicable column or use additional forms as necessary to cover all the examinations through CY 2013.

C. Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule

Estimate by month the number of applicants who plan to take the GFE in CY 2010 and CY 2011. As requested by the industry, the NRC now administers the GFE four times per year.

VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

The NRC asks addressees choosing to submit the information requested in NRC Form 536 to do so within 30 days of receiving this RIS. NRC Form 536 is available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/>. Direct your response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and send a copy of the response to the applicable regional office. You may submit responses electronically.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS requires no action or written response. Any action on the part of addressees to collect and transmit operator licensing examination data in accordance with the request contained in this RIS is strictly voluntary and, therefore, is not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, "Backfitting." Consequently, the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

The NRC did not publish a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS in the *Federal Register* because it pertains to an administrative aspect of the regulatory process that involves the voluntary submission of information on the part of addressees.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

The NRC has determined that this RIS is not a rule as designated by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 801–808) and, therefore, is not subject to the Act.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS does not contain any new or amended information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq.). Existing requirements under 10 CFR Part 50 were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), approval number 3150-0131, which expires on October 31, 2011.

The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including 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 or any other aspect of these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or through electronic mail to INFOCOLLECTS.Resource@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0131), 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.

CONTACT

Please direct any questions about this matter to the technical contacts listed below.

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Enclosure:
NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data"

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ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML091470309

TAC No. ME1357

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| NAME | CHawes | SStuchell | MMurphy | TMcGinty | | |
| DATE | 07/06/2009 | 07/07/2009 | 07/08/2009 | 07/16/2009 | | |

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| NRC FORM 536 (10-2008) | | U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION | | APPROVED BY OMB: NO. 3150-0131 | | EXPIRES: 10/31/2011 | | |
| OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DATA | | | | <small>Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (1-S F55), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.</small> | | | | |
| FACILITY | | | | | | NRC REGION | | |
| A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE | | | | | | | | |
| PROPOSED NUMBER | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | |
| ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| PROPOSED NUMBER | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | CY ____ | |
| NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS | | | | | | | | |
| NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - INSTANT | | | | | | | | |
| NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - UPGRADE | | | | | | | | |
| NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - LIMITED | | | | | | | | |
| PROPOSED DATES | | | | | | | | |
| PRIMARY DATE | | | | | | | | |
| ALTERNATE DATE | | | | | | | | |
| C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE | | | | | | | | |
| PROPOSED NUMBER | CY ____ | | | | CY ____ | | | |
| | MARCH | JUNE | SEPTEMBER | DECEMBER | MARCH | JUNE | SEPTEMBER | DECEMBER |
| ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES | | | | | | | | |