

August 30, 2000

Mr. Douglas J. Walters
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Mr. David Lochbaum
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SUBJECT: DRAFT REGULATORY GUIDE DG-1104, DRAFT STANDARD REVIEW PLAN FOR LICENSE RENEWAL, DRAFT GENERIC AGING LESSONS LEARNED REPORT, AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Gentlemen:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is issuing a set of documents that constitute improved guidance for license renewal for formal public comment. Enclosed is a copy of the Federal Register notice announcing the availability of the documents, requesting comments, and announcing a public workshop. Copies of the following documents are enclosed with this letter for your convenience, and will be available on our web site for anyone you may want to inform who might want to comment:

- Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1104, "Standard Format and Content for Applications to Renew Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses" and the endorsed Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) guidance document NEI 95-10, "Industry Guideline for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 54—The License Renewal Rule," Revision 2.
- A draft Standard Review Plan for License Renewal, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants"
- A draft Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report

As described in the Federal Register notice, we will hold a public workshop on Monday, September 25, 2000, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to discuss the guidance documents and facilitate the development of formal comments. The staff is requesting that all comments on these draft reports be submitted by October 16, 2000. We are particularly interested in comments that will focus on the fundamental question of the extent to which existing programs adequately manage aging effects for the structures and components within the scope of license renewal. To that end, we encourage you to involve individuals and organizations who can comment on (1) how well the improved guidance articulates the attributes of existing programs that adequately manage applicable aging effects, and (2) how well the improved guidance identifies those areas where existing programs should be augmented. We would hope that the comments would include supporting justification in enough detail for the staff to evaluate the need for changes in the guidance, as well as references to operating experience, industry standards or other relevant reference materials that provide a sound technical basis for such changes. We are also interested in comments that will improve the clarity of the documents so that the improved guidance will ensure a stable and predictable evaluation standard for future renewal applicants.

August 30, 2000

Editorial and style comments are not necessary because we expect that the guidance documents will need to be reformatted and edited before they are finalized. We also intend to incorporate formatting changes that result from further improvements to the standard form and content for renewal applications.

The issuance of these draft documents for public comment is an important milestone for the license renewal program. We look forward to working with you and other stakeholders to develop constructive comments that will improve the safety benefits, effectiveness and efficiency of the license renewal process. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Raj Anand at 301-415-1146.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher I. Grimes, Chief
License Renewal and Standardization Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 690

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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Project No. 690

cc: with Federal Register Notice
without DG-1104, SRP-LR and GALL

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