



**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**STANDARD REVIEW PLAN**  
**OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION**

**2.1.2 EXCLUSION AREA AUTHORITY AND CONTROL**

**REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES**

Primary - Siting Analysis Branch (SAB)

Secondary - None

**I. AREAS OF REVIEW**

The applicant's legal authority to determine all activities within the designated exclusion area is reviewed. 10 CFR Part 100, § 100.3(a) requires that a reactor licensee have authority to determine all activities within the designated exclusion area, including the exclusion and removal of personnel and property.

In any case where the applicant does not own all the land, including mineral rights, within the designated exclusion area, assistance may be required of the Office of the Executive Legal Director (OELD) in determining whether or not the designated exclusion area meets the requirements of 10 CFR Part 100. Also, in some cases public roads which lie within the proposed exclusion area may have to be abandoned or relocated to permit plant construction. OELD assistance may be required to assure that no legal impediments to such abandonment or relocation are likely to ensue. Part 100 permits the exclusion area to be traversed by a highway, railway, or waterway provided arrangements are made to control these areas in event of an emergency.

Activities that may be permitted within the designated exclusion area, and that will not be related to routine operation of the plant, are reviewed. Review should include the type of activity, its specific location within the exclusion area, the number and kinds of persons engaged in the activity, and the frequency and length of time the activities are to be permitted. The Accident Evaluation Branch (AEB), upon request, will determine whether individuals associated with plant unrelated activities within the exclusion area can be evacuated prior to receiving doses in excess of the guideline values of 10 CFR Part 100.

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**USNRC STANDARD REVIEW PLAN**

Standard review plans are prepared for the guidance of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff responsible for the review of applications to construct and operate nuclear power plants. These documents are made available to the public as part of the Commission's policy to inform the nuclear industry and the general public of regulatory procedures and policies. Standard review plans are not substitutes for regulatory guides or the Commission's regulations and compliance with them is not required. The standard review plan sections are keyed to the Standard Format and Content of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants. Not all sections of the Standard Format have a corresponding review plan.

Published standard review plans will be revised periodically, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and to reflect new information and experience.

Comments and suggestions for improvement will be considered and should be sent to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Washington, D.C. 20555.

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## II. ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

SAB acceptance criteria are based on meeting the relevant requirements of 10 CFR Part 100 with respect to the applicant's legal authority with the designated exclusion area. 10 CFR Part 100 (Ref. 1) in Section 100.3(a) states as follows:

"Exclusion area" means that area surrounding the reactor, in which the reactor licensee has the authority to determine all activities including exclusion or removal of personnel and property from the area. This area may be traversed by a highway, railroad or waterway, provided these are not so close to the facility as to interfere with normal operations of the facility and provided appropriate and effective arrangements are made to control traffic on the highway, railroad, or waterway, in case of emergency, to protect the public health and safety....Activities unrelated to operation of the reactor may be permitted in an exclusion area under appropriate limitations, provided that no significant hazards to the public health and safety will result."

To meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 100 the applicant must demonstrate, prior to issuance of a construction permit or limited work authorization, that it has the authority within the exclusion area as required by Section 100.3(a), or must provide reasonable assurance that it will have such authority prior to start of construction. Absolute ownership of all lands within the exclusion area, including mineral rights, is considered to carry with it the required authority to determine all activities on this land and is acceptable.

Where the required authority is contingent upon future procurement of ownership (e.g., by eminent domain proceedings), or by lease, easement, contract, or other means, the exclusion area may be acceptable if OELD can determine that the information provided by the applicant provides reasonable assurance that the required authority will be obtained prior to start of construction. In cases where ownership and control is to be acquired or completed during a construction period, a special review by OELD will be required. Also, in cases of proposed public road abandonment or relocation, OELD should determine that there is sufficient authority or that sufficient arrangements have been made to accomplish the proposed relocation or abandonment. At the OL stage of review, the applicant must have completed arrangements to determine all activities within the exclusion area. The applicant will not be permitted to load fuel until exclusion area authority and control, including all transfers of title, easements, lease arrangements, public road abandonments or relocations, as applicable, are completed.

Activities unrelated to plant operation within the exclusion area are acceptable provided:

- (a) Such activities, including accidents associated with such activities, represent no hazard to the plant or have been shown to be accommodated as part of the plant design basis (see SRP Section 2.2.3) (Ref. 2).
- (b) The applicant is aware of such activities and has made appropriate arrangements to evacuate persons engaged in such activities, in the event of an accident, and
- (c) There is reasonable assurance that persons engaged in such activities can be evacuated without receiving radiation doses in excess of the guideline values given in 10 CFR Part 100.

Where the designated exclusion area extends into bodies of water such as a lake, reservoir, or river which is routinely accessible to the public, the reviewer must determine that the applicant has made appropriate arrangements with the local, state, Federal, or other public agency having authority over the particular body of water and the arrangements made provide for the exclusion and ready removal in an emergency, by either the applicant or the public agency in authority, of any persons on those portions of the body of water which lie within the designated exclusion area.

References 3, 4, and 5 contain pertinent decisions made by Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards (ASLB) and Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Boards (ASLAB) which deal with exclusion area determinations in contested cases.

### III. REVIEW PROCEDURES

Selection and emphasis of various aspects of the areas covered by this standard review plan section will be made by the reviewer on each case. The judgment on the areas to be given attention during the review is to be based on an inspection of the material presented, the similarity of the material to that recently reviewed on other plants, and whether items of special safety significance are involved.

The reviewer should determine the basis on which the applicant claims authority within the exclusion area. If absolute ownership of all lands, including mineral rights, within the area is demonstrated, the acceptance criteria are satisfied. If any other method is claimed as providing the required authority, a memorandum should be prepared for OELD containing all of the appropriate information in the SAR, including copies of applicable SAR pages and figures, and requesting a written response as to whether or not the applicant's claimed authority meets the requirements of 10 CFR Part 100, § 100.3(a). In any case where there are technical reasons which the reviewer believes make the applicant's proposed method unacceptable, these reasons should be described and discussed in the memorandum. If the exclusion area extends into a body of water such as a lake, reservoir, or river, the area of the body of water encompassed should be reviewed against the guidelines of Part 100 regarding control of access and activities unrelated to operation of the reactor. The extent of the exclusion area over a waterway must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The memorandum should also include information in the PSAR which describes the applicant's plans, procedures, and schedule for obtaining any abandonment or relocation of public roads which may be required. At the operating stage, review will emphasize those areas where the applicant did not possess absolute authority at the construction permit review.

If the designated exclusion area is traversed by a highway, railway, waterway, or other transportation route accessible to the public, the reviewer should determine that the applicant's emergency plan includes adequate provisions for control of traffic on these routes in the event of an emergency. At the construction permit stage, a finding that such provisions are feasible is adequate.

If activities unrelated to plant operation are to be permitted within the exclusion area, it will be necessary to determine that the potential radiation exposures to persons engaged in these activities resulting from the design basis accidents postulated and evaluated in SAR Section 15 do not exceed the guidelines of 10 CFR Part 100. The reviewer should request the assistance of the AEB for this review area.

#### IV. EVALUATION FINDINGS

The reviewer verifies that sufficient information has been provided, and that his evaluation is sufficiently complete and adequate to support conclusions of the following type, to be included in the staff's safety evaluation report:

The staff concludes that the applicant's exclusion area is acceptable and meets the requirements of 10 CFR Part 100. This conclusion is based on the applicant having appropriately described the plant exclusion area, the authority under which all activities within the exclusion area can be controlled, and the methods by which access and occupancy of the exclusion area can be controlled during normal operation and in the event of an emergency situation. In addition, the applicant has the required authority to control activities within the designated exclusion area, including the exclusion and removal of persons and property, and has established acceptable methods for control of the designated exclusion area.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION

The following is intended to provide guidance to applicants and licensees regarding the NRC staff's plans for using this SRP section.

Except in those cases in which the applicant proposes an acceptable alternative method for complying with specified portions of the Commission's regulations, the method described herein will be used by the staff in its evaluation of conformance with Commission regulations.

#### VI. REFERENCES

1. 10 CFR Part 100, "Reactor Site Criteria."
2. NUREG 75/087, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants," Section 2.2.3.
3. The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, et al. (Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2), "Supplemental Partial Initial Decision, Site Suitability and Environmental Matters," LBP-74-76, 8 AEC 701 (October 20, 1974).
4. Southern California Edison Company, et al. (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3), "Decision," ALAB-248, 8 AEC 951 (December 24, 1974).
5. Southern California Edison Company, et al. (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3), "Decision," ALAB-268 1-NRC 383 (April 25, 1975).