

Generic Fundamentals Examination

Update

Theresa Buchanan
May 16, 2019

Agenda

- Background
- Options
- Current Status
- Next Steps

Background

- GFE reduced from 4x per year to 2x per year as part of Project AIM – reduce contract costs
- Unintended result – large “peaks and valleys” for initial site-specific examination requests
 - Cannot support under current and projected resource levels
 - Does not support the National Exam Schedule initiative
- Regulations were developed based on a single written licensing examination

Background

- GFE Working Group was initiated to evaluate options
 - Maintain cost effectiveness in reduced resource environment
 - Increase schedule flexibility while supporting facility examination needs
 - Ensure competence of applicants can continue to be evaluated
 - Evaluate cost to implement

Option 1

- Retain 75 question RO examination
 - No change to SRO-only questions
- Six questions on 41(b)(1) and (14)
 - Three reactor theory
 - Three thermodynamics
- Add K/A catalog section 5 (components) to testable list for Tier 2 Generic K/A's in ES-401

Option 1

- Tier 3 question changes
 - Two questions Conduct of Operations
 - Two questions Equipment Control
 - One question Radiation Control
 - One question Emergency Plan
- Tier 1/Tier 2 question changes
 - Either:
 - Remove one question from Tier 1 Group 2 and one question from Tier 2 Group 2 – Group 2 has a lower testing emphasis, or
 - Remove two questions from Tier 2 Group 1 – still retain 100% coverage of Group 1 systems

Option 2

- Similar to Option 1
- Differences
 - Test one question in Conduct of Operations
 - Test one question in Equipment Control
 - No changes to Tiers 1 and 2

Option 3

- Retain GFE – return to 4x per year
- Evaluate development “in-house”
- Evaluate administering via computer over the internet

Current Status

- NRC management meeting
 - April 8, 2019
 - Approval to pilot Options 1 and 2
- Public meeting with industry

Next Steps

- Industry involvement
 - Public meetings
 - Pilot Options 1 and 2
 - Volunteer
 - Evaluate pilot implementation
 - Implement pilot
 - Evaluate pilot results and revise options as necessary
- Notify Commission of option and pilot results