

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2022-0159]

**Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead Acid Storage Batteries for
Production and Utilization Facilities**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ACTION: Draft regulatory guide; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment a draft regulatory guide (DG), DG-1401, "Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead Acid Storage Batteries for Production and Utilization Facilities". This DG is the proposed Revision 4 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.129. RG 1.129 describes methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff pertaining to the maintenance, testing, and replacement of vented lead acid storage batteries in production and utilization facilities.

DATES: Submit comments by **September 28, 2022**. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal rulemaking website**:

- **Federal rulemaking website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2022-0159**. Address questions about Docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301-415-0624; email: Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the "For Further Information Contact" section of this document.

- **Mail comments to:** Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Steckel, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone: 301-415-1026, email: James.Steckel@nrc.gov; and Brian Correll, Region IV, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Arlington, Texas 76011-4511, telephone: 817-200-1565, email: Brian.Correll@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2022-0159**, when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2022-0159**.

- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov. DG-1401, “Maintenance,

Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead Acid Storage Batteries for Production and Utilization Facilities,” is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML22026A441. The staff is also issuing for public comment a draft regulatory analysis for DG-1401 under ADAMS Accession No. ML22026A443.

- **NRC’s PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents, by appointment, at the NRC’s PDR, Room P1 B35, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays

B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal rulemaking website** (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID **NRC-2022-0159** in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Additional Information

The NRC is issuing for public comment a DG in the NRC's "Regulatory Guide" series. This series was developed to describe methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the agency's regulations, to explain techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific issues or postulated events, and to describe information that the staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The DG, entitled "Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead Acid Storage Batteries for Production and Utilization Facilities," is temporarily identified by its task number, DG-1401.

Production and utilization facilities licensed under Part 50 and Part 52 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) are required to optimize the life and performance of installed vented lead acid storage batteries used for standby power applications to perform safety functions under applicable service conditions, including design-basis events. This revision (Revision 4) provides updated state-of-the-art technical information regarding the maintenance, testing, and replacement of vented lead acid storage batteries.

III. Backfitting, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

Issuance of DG-1401, if finalized, would not constitute backfitting as that term is defined in 10 CFR 50.109, "Backfitting," and as described in NRC Management Directive (MD) 8.4, "Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests"; would not constitute forward fitting as that term is defined and described in MD 8.4; or affect issue finality of any approval issued under 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certificates, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants." As explained in DG-1401, applicants and licensees are not required to comply with the positions set forth in DG-1401.

IV. Submitting Suggestions for Improvement of Regulatory Guides

A member of the public may, at any time, submit suggestions to the NRC for improvement of existing RGs or for the development of new RGs. Suggestions can be submitted on the NRC's public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/contactus.html>. Suggestions will be considered in future updates and enhancements to the "Regulatory Guide" series.

Dated: August 24, 2022.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

/RA/

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