

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, 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. Discussion

The NRC is issuing for public comment a draft plant-specific Supplement 54 to the GEIS for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating license NPF-37 AND NPF-66 for an additional 20 years of operation for Byron. Supplement 54 to the GEIS includes the preliminary analysis that evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action. The NRC's preliminary recommendation is that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Byron are not great enough to deny the option of license renewal for energy-planning decisionmakers.

## III. Public Meetings

The NRC staff will hold public meetings prior to the close of the public comment period to present an overview of the draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS and to accept public comment on the document. Two meetings will be held at the Byron Forrest Preserve, 7993 North River Road, Byron, Illinois 61010, on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. The first session will convene at 2 p.m. and will continue until 4 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7 p.m. and will continue until 9 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) A presentation of the contents of the draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the same location. No comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered in the final supplement to the GEIS, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or submitted in writing by the comment deadline identified above. Persons may pre-register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting by contacting

Mr. Lois James, the NRC project manager, at 1-800-368-5642, extension 3306, or by email at [Lois.James@nrc.gov](mailto:Lois.James@nrc.gov) no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Members of the public may also register to provide oral comments within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Ms. James' attention no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2015, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23 day of December, 2014.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Elaine Keegan,**

*Acting Chief, Projects Branch 2, Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2013-0227]

### Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** NUREG; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing NUREG-1021, Revision 10, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors, Final Report." This NUREG provides policy and guidance for the development, administration, and grading of examinations used for licensing operators at nuclear power plants pursuant to the Commission's regulations.

**DATES:** Revision 10 of NUREG-1021 is available January 2, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2013-0227 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web site:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2013-0227. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-287-3422; email: [Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov](mailto:Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the **FOR FURTHER**

**INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "ADAMS Public Documents" and then 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](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). Revision 10 of NUREG-1021 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14352A297. Draft NUREG-1021, Revision 10 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13325A090.

- **NRC's PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Kellum, Office of New Reactors, telephone: 301-415-5305, email: [Jim.Kellum@nrc.gov](mailto:Jim.Kellum@nrc.gov); or Timothy Kolb, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, telephone: 301-415-1428, email: [Timothy.Kolb@nrc.gov](mailto:Timothy.Kolb@nrc.gov); U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Revision 10 of NUREG-1021 provides policy and guidance for the development, administration, and grading of examinations used for licensing operators at nuclear power plants pursuant to the Commission's regulations in Part 55 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, "Operator Licenses." This NUREG also provides guidance for maintaining operators' licenses, and for the NRC to conduct requalification examinations when necessary.

Revision 10 of NUREG-1021 replaces Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021. Draft NUREG-1021, Revision 10, was published in the **Federal Register** for public comment on December 9, 2013 (78 FR 73898). The NRC received 90 public comments from private citizens and industry organizations. The comments were generally in agreement with the draft revisions to the NUREG. Revision 10 of NUREG-1021 incorporates the comments received on draft NUREG-1021, Revision 10. The NRC staff's evaluation and resolution of the public comments are documented in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14345A266.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of December, 2014.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Michael Junge,**

*Chief, Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch, Division of Construction Inspection and Operational Programs, Office of New Reactors.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2013-0041]

### Revision to Seismic Design Parameters

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Standard review plan-final section revision; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a final revision to the following section in Chapter 3 of NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants: LWR Edition," Section 3.7.1, "Seismic Design Parameters."

**DATES:** The effective date of this Standard Review Plan (SRP) update is February 2, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2013-0041 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may access publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2013-0041. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-287-3422; email: [Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov](mailto:Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may access publicly available documents online in the NRC Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "ADAMS Public Documents" and then 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](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this notice (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced. The final revision for Standard Review Plan (SRP)

Section 3.7.1, "Seismic Design Parameters," is available under ADAMS Accession No. ML14198A460. A redline strikeout comparing the proposed revision to the final revision can be found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14198A466. The responses to public comments can be found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14198A462.

- *NRC's PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

- The NRC posts its issued staff guidance on the NRC's external Web page: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr0800/>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonathan DeGange, Office of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-6992, email: [Jonathan.DeGange@nrc.gov](mailto:Jonathan.DeGange@nrc.gov) or Nishka Devaser, telephone: 301-415-5196, email: [NishkaDevaser@nrc.gov](mailto:NishkaDevaser@nrc.gov), Office of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555 0001.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

On March 1, 2013 (78 FR 13911), the NRC published for public comment the proposed revision to this section of the SRP. The staff made changes to the proposed revision after consideration of comments received. A summary of the comments and the staff's disposition of the comments are available in a separate document, "Response to Public Comments on Draft SRP Section 3.7.1" (ADAMS Accession No. ML14198A462).

The changes to this SRP section reflect current staff's review methods and practices based on lessons learned from NRC reviews of design certification and combined license applications completed since the last revision of this chapter. Changes include: (1) Enhancements to guidance to the staff for evaluating the acceptability of seismic, civil, structural design, and analysis issues, (2) updates to review interfaces to improve the efficiency and consistency of staff reviews and (3) updates to references covered in the section.

The revised section has incorporated staff dispositions of all public comments received on the proposed revision. The most salient changes in response to the public comments are the rewrite of Appendix B to SRP Section 3.7.1. The new Appendix B provides further enhancement of the guidance on developing power spectral density functions associated with ground

motion artificial time histories. No new SRP acceptance criteria were added as a result of this rewrite of Appendix B.

##### II. Backfitting and Issue Finality

Issuance of this final SRP section does not constitute backfitting as defined in § 50.109 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) (the Backfit Rule) and is not otherwise inconsistent with the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52. The staff's position is based upon the following considerations:

1. The SRP positions do not constitute backfitting, inasmuch as the SRP is internal guidance directed at the NRC staff with respect to their regulatory responsibilities.

The SRP provides guidance to the staff on how to review an application for NRC regulatory approval in the form of licensing. Changes in internal staff guidance are not matters for which either nuclear power plant applicants or licensees are protected under either the Backfit Rule or the issue finality provisions of 10 CFR part 52.

2. The NRC staff has no intention to impose the SRP positions on current licensees and regulatory approvals either now or in the future.

The staff does not intend to impose or apply the positions described in the SRP to existing (already issued) licenses and regulatory approvals. Hence, the issuance of a final SRP—even if considered guidance which is within the purview of the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52—need not be evaluated as if it were a backfit or as being inconsistent with issue finality provisions. If, in the future, the staff seeks to impose a position in the SRP on holders of already issued holders of licenses SRP in a manner which does not provide issue finality as described in the applicable issue finality provision, then the staff must make the showing as set forth in the Backfit Rule or address the criteria for avoiding issue finality as described applicable issue finality provision.

3. Backfitting and issue finality do not—with limited exceptions not applicable here—protect current or future applicants.

Applicants and potential applicants are not, with certain exceptions, protected by either the Backfit Rule or any issue finality provisions under 10 CFR part 52. This is because neither the Backfit Rule nor the issue finality provisions under 10 CFR part 52—with certain exclusions discussed below—were intended to apply to every NRC action which substantially changes the expectations of current and future applicants.