

Withdrawn

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2010-08, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated June 28, 2010, has been withdrawn.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML101460195

See *Federal Register* notice 81 FR 31969, dated
May 20, 2016

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

June 28, 2010

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2010-08
PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

ADDRESSEES

All holders of or applicants for a power reactor operating license or construction permit pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

All holders of or applicants for a power reactor early site permit, standard design certification, standard design approval, manufacturing license, or a combined license pursuant to 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants.

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the NRC staff's need for updated information on projected site-specific operator licensing examination schedules, as well as the estimated numbers of applicants planning to take operator licensing examinations and the NRC's generic fundamentals examinations (GFEs). This information will help the NRC to more effectively use its resources. This RIS requires no action or written response on the part of addressees. Addressee actions to collect and transmit the information requested are strictly voluntary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 55.40, Subpart E, "Written Examinations and Operating Tests," permits nuclear power facility licensees to prepare, proctor, and grade the written examinations required by 10 CFR 55.41, "Written Examination: Operators," and 10 CFR 55.43, "Written Examination: Senior Operators," provided that they satisfy certain conditions. Under 10 CFR 55.40, facility licensees are also permitted to prepare the NRC-administered operating tests required by 10 CFR 55.45, "Operating Tests." Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(c), facility licensees that choose not to prepare their own examinations and operating tests must request in writing that the NRC prepare the examination and the operating tests.

In RIS 2009-11, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated July 16, 2009, the NRC asked power reactor licensees to submit proposed schedules of examinations that they intended to prepare and estimate the number of applicants to be tested in site examinations and GFEs in calendar years (CYs) 2010 through 2012 and to add an

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estimate for CY 2013.

This RIS requests licensees to voluntarily update examination schedules and applicant estimates for CYs 2012 through 2014, and add an estimate for CY 2015.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The NRC uses nearly twice as many resources to prepare an examination as to review, approve, administer, and document a licensee-prepared examination. The number of examinations administered by licensees fluctuates from year to year. Consequently, the NRC has found it helpful to request an annual update of power reactor facility licensees' operator licensing examination needs. Moreover, with the anticipated number of new operator positions that will need to be filled for new plants, the differences in upcoming years could be significant. Therefore, we request that you evaluate your response to this RIS in this light, particularly in the latter years. The update should include an estimate of the number of applicants to be examined and whether the licensee or the NRC will prepare the exam. For those utilities that are not planning to construct a new plant, evaluate your response to consider the impact of licensed operators moving between utilities to fill the many anticipated openings in the future. This information will help the NRC budget its resources. The NRC regional offices will continue to coordinate specific examination dates with the training managers of affected facility licensees.

The NRC is requesting that each licensee provide the following information on the enclosed NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data".

A. Proposed Examination Preparation Schedule

Estimate the number of examinations you intend to prepare and the number of examinations you will request the NRC to prepare during CYs 2012 through 2015. For examinations that facility licensees will prepare, the NRC will assume that each examination includes the required outline, the written examination, and the operating test unless the licensee specifies otherwise. Joint NRC/licensee examination development is permitted and should be coordinated with the NRC regional office. Schedule changes that are required following submission of your RIS response, should be addressed in a letter submitted to the applicable NRC regional office for agreement to and coordination of examination administration changes.

B. Initial Operator License Examinations

For each desired examination, estimate the number of applicants to be tested and enter the proposed primary and alternate dates of the examination. If you are requesting more than one examination per CY, fill in applicable columns as appropriate through CY 2015.

C. Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule

Estimate by month the number of applicants who plan to take the GFE in CYs 2012 and 2013. As requested by the industry, the NRC now administers the GFE four times per year.

VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

The NRC asks addressees choosing to submit the information requested in NRC Form 536 to do so within 30 days of receiving this RIS. NRC Form 536 is available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/forms/>. Direct your response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and send a copy of the response to the applicable regional office. You may submit responses electronically.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS requires no action or written response. Any action on the part of addressees to collect and transmit operator licensing examination data in accordance with the request contained in this RIS is strictly voluntary and, therefore, is not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, "Backfitting." Consequently, the NRC staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

The NRC did not publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS because it pertains to an administrative aspect of the regulatory process that involves the voluntary submission of information on the part of addressees.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

This RIS is not a rule as designated by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. §§801-808) and, therefore is not subject to the Act.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS information collection is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). This voluntary information collection is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance No. 3150-0131.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

CONTACT

Please direct any questions about this matter to the technical contacts listed below.

/RA/

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Enclosure: As stated

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Enclosure: As Stated

DISTRIBUTION:
RIS File

ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML101460195

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NRC FORM 536 <small>(10-2008)</small>	U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION	APPROVED BY OMB: NO. 3150-0131	EXPIRES: 10/31/2011 <small>Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.</small>					
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DATA								
FACILITY		NRC REGION						
A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE								
PROPOSED NUMBER	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____					
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS								
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS								
B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS								
PROPOSED NUMBER	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____					
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS								
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - INSTANT								
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - UPGRADE								
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - LIMITED								
PROPOSED DATES								
PRIMARY DATE								
ALTERNATE DATE								
C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE								
PROPOSED NUMBER	CY ____				CY ____			
	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES								