

Withdrawn

NRC Administrative Letter 1996-03, "Centralization of Quality Assurance Program Review Responsibility in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation" dated September 27, 1996, has been withdrawn.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML031110120

See *Federal Register* notice dated April 18, 2017.

82 FR 18316

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 27, 1996

NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER 96-03: CENTRALIZATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY IN THE OFFICE OF
NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this administrative letter to inform addressees of its decision to relocate responsibility for reviewing licensees' quality assurance program (QAP) descriptions from the regional offices to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). This change in QAP description review responsibility has been promulgated in order to centralize the evaluation process associated with licensee submittals made under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(a) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR). This administrative letter does not transmit or imply any new or altered requirements, nor does it affect established staff positions. No specific action or written response is required.

Background

Previous NRC policy regarding the review of QAPs, described or referenced in the Safety Analysis Report, directed NRR to perform the initial preoperational license evaluations of QAP descriptions. Subsequent to the issuance of the operating license, the responsibility for reviewing of QAP descriptions was assigned to the regional offices [see "Statement of Considerations" for 10 CFR 50.54(a) rule change]. Accordingly, each region issued unique administrative controls for the processing of licensee submittals and maintained separate files pertaining to these QAP descriptions. However, recent consolidation efforts within the NRC have resulted in the decision to centralize the agency reviews associated with the evaluation of QAP description changes submitted under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(a).

Discussion

Current implementation plans for the centralization of QAP reviews involve a phased approach for the assumption of evaluation responsibilities under the Division of Reactor Controls and Human Factors, Quality Assurance and Maintenance Branch (HQMB). This process will involve the transfer of review responsibilities from the regions to HQMB in accordance with the following schedule:

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updated on 10/8/96

1050-5 Administrative Letter DF03

Region I - October 1, 1996
Region II - October 1, 1996
Region III - November 1, 1996
Region IV - December 1, 1996

As a result of the transfer process, HQMB will perform the reviews of those QAP submittals received subsequent to the established transition date. QAP submittals that have been received in the regions prior to the transfer date will normally be reviewed by the cognizant regional staff, and the associated correspondence will be forwarded to licensees from the respective regional offices. For those submittals that are reviewed by HQMB, the corresponding acceptance letters will be forwarded to licensees through the appropriate NRR, Division of Reactor Projects Directorate. However, the HQMB reviews of QAP description changes will continue to be coordinated with the regional offices.

Addressees are reminded that under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(a), QAP description changes must be submitted as specified in 10 CFR 50.4, must include all pages affected by that change and must be accompanied by a forwarding letter identifying the change, the reason for the change, and the basis for concluding that the revised program incorporating the change continues to satisfy the criteria of Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 50 and the Safety Analysis Report QAP description commitments previously accepted by the NRC. A line-in/line-out version of the proposed QAP description change would assist the staff in the complete understanding of the proposed QAP description change. Additionally, for submittals that involve conversion to the Improved Standard Technical Specifications, a detailed "roadmap" that correlates the relocation of technical specification (TS) administrative controls to the QAP description including identification of any TS administrative controls that have been altered or deleted can substantially expedite the NRC review.



Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Contact: Robert M. Latta, NRR
(301) 415-1023
Email: rml1@nrc.gov

Attachment: List of Recently Issued Administrative Letters

Attachment filed in Jacket

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
 NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTERS

Administrative Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
95-03, Rev. 1	Availability of Reactor Vessel Integrity Database	07/10/96	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors
96-02	Licensee Responsibilities Related to Financial Qualifications	06/21/96	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors
94-13, Rev. 2	Access to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin Board Systems	05/03/96	All NRC licensees.
96-01	Operator Licensing National Examination Schedule	01/09/96	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-06	Relocation of Technical Specification Administrative Controls Related to Quality Assurance	12/12/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-05	Revisions to Staff Guidance for Implementing NRC Policy on Notices of Enforcement Discretion	11/07/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-04	NRC Program Office responsibilities for Decommissioning Activities and Planning for Dry Cask Storage of Spent Fuel	11/07/95	All holders of OLs & CPs for nuclear power reactors.
95-03	Availability of Reactor Vessel Integrity Database	08/04/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
94-13, Rev. 1	Access to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin Board Systems	06/29/95	All NRC licensees.
95-02	Cost Beneficial Licensing Actions	02/23/95	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.

OL = Operating License
 CP = Construction Permit

Region I - October 1, 1996
 Region II - October 1, 1996
 Region III - November 1, 1996
 Region IV - December 1, 1996

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original signed by
 Thomas T. Martin, Director
 Division of Reactor Program Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Attachment: List of Recently Issued Administrative Letters
 *SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES
 Tech Editor has reviewed and concurred on 09/10/96
 DOCUMENT NAME: 96-03.AL

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OFFICE	TECH CONT	C:PECB:DRPM	D:DRPM				
NAME	RMLatta* <i>RML</i>	AEChaffee*	TMartin				
DATE	09/16/96	09/17/96	09/25/96				

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The public reporting burden for this voluntary collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on the potential impact of the collection of information contained in the administrative letter and on the following issues:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the NRC, including whether the information will have practical utility?
2. Is the estimate of burden accurate?
3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
4. How can the burden of the collection of information be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques?

Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6-F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at bjs1@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0011), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

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

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NAME	RMLatta* <i>RML</i>	AEChaffee*	TTMartin				
DATE	09/18/96	09/17/96	09/ /96				

for reviewing future changes to licensee submittals pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(a). Questions regarding to this letter should be directed to the person noted below or to the appropriate NRR project manager.

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NAME	RLATTA*	RGRAMM*	MMepic*	SCBLACK*	RLSPESSARD*
DATE	09/16/96	09/16/96	9/10/96	09/16/96	09/16/96
OFFICE	DRCH/NRR	PECB/DRPM	PECB/DRPM	PECB/DRPM	DRPM/NRR
NAME	BABOGER*		SECTION CHIEF*	ACHAFFEE*	TTMARTIN
DATE	09/16/96	09/ /96	09/17/96	09/17/96	09/ /96

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Although no change in the reporting requirements specified in 10 CFR 50.4 are implied by this Administrative Letter, addressees are requested to transmit a current copy of their QAP description, included or referenced in their Safety Analysis Report, along with their next QAP description update or change submittal, to the NRC Document Control Desk, Washington DC, 20555, attention HQMB. The compilation of these QAP descriptions will provide a common basis for reviewing future changes to licensee submittals pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(a). Questions regarding to this letter should be directed to the person noted below or to the appropriate NRR project manager.

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DATE	09/14/96		09/16/96		9/10/96	09/16/96		09/16/96	
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