

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

September 28, 2006

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2006-21:
IMPROVING RESPONSE CAPABILITIES THROUGH THE USE OF AN
INCIDENT RESPONSE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY**

ADDRESSEES

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to request licensee cooperation in obtaining documents that would improve the agency's ability to respond to an emergency at a nuclear power plant. This RIS requests licensees provide the documents that are listed in the enclosures in electronic, Adobe Acrobat (Adobe) format.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During an emergency, NRC must independently evaluate the situation and the licensee's protective action recommendations to State and local officials. NRC provides assistance and advice to State and local officials to help ensure that the protective actions taken are in the best interest of public health and safety. In addition, during an emergency that activates the National Response Plan, NRC is the coordinating Federal agency for its licensees and is responsible for facilitating all communications between the licensees and the Federal Government. In such a situation, NRC is the primary source of information for other Federal agencies, the source of information the Federal Government provides to the public, and the conduit for assistance from the Federal Government to the licensees.

To perform these functions effectively, NRC needs to provide its emergency responders with information that would allow them to quickly and efficiently evaluate a licensee's situation. Thus, NRC has developed an electronic repository of critical plant information to provide to NRC emergency responders: Incident Response Electronic Library. This electronic repository, or "e-Library," will be located on an NRC server and will contain plant information that is readily accessible, easily shared, highly reliable, and up-to-date. The e-Library will allow NRC and the licensee to access the same information during an event.

To test the effectiveness of the e-Library, NRC conducted a four-plant pilot with the Beaver Valley, Monticello, Seabrook, and Wolf Creek nuclear plants. During this pilot, NRC tested (1) the feasibility of gathering the needed information and (2) the ease of converting the licensees' documents into a usable and shareable format (i.e., Adobe). After the NRC staff refined the agency's processes, the licensees at the four plants produced the documents quickly and easily. The average collection time during the pilot was 15 hours per plant.

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The NRC staff found that most documents were available in Adobe format or were able to be easily converted into Adobe format.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

The purpose of this RIS is to request licensees' cooperation and assistance in providing the documents listed in Enclosures 1 or 2. With these documents, NRC will be a more efficient and effective response partner and will increase situational and informational awareness during a licensee's emergency.

The NRC staff will insert the documents listed in Enclosures 1 or 2 into the easy-to-use framework of the e-Library. The e-Library then will be NRC's primary method of storing, organizing, and displaying incident response documents. NRC then will eliminate the current method of storing cumbersome and outdated hard-copy versions of response documents. The new method will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of incident response, thereby reducing the potential for human error and dramatically reducing the licensee's communications burden during an event.

Submission of this information is voluntary and not required by regulation. However, NRC believes that providing the information will be advantageous to both the industry and NRC. The value of the e-Library was demonstrated during the biennial exercises with the Braidwood, Monticello, Seabrook, and Wolf Creek nuclear plants. The NRC staff installed the information gathered through the pilot in the e-Library and effectively used the e-Library during these plants' biennial exercises. The e-Library significantly reduced the need for the licensees to send plant information to NRC during the exercise, reducing the number of questions and requests for information from NRC to the licensee by more than 50 percent.

The e-Library initiative has been discussed at several industry emergency preparedness forums. The reaction has been positive. Industry representatives consider the e-Library to be beneficial to both licensees and the NRC staff. NRC has briefed the Nuclear Energy Institute's Emergency Preparedness Working Group on this initiative.

NRC would appreciate receiving the documents listed in the applicable enclosure within approximately 90 days of the issuance of this RIS. The requested documents should be formatted as Adobe files, copied to a CD-ROM, and mailed to the Deputy Director for Incident Response, Mail Stop: T-4L7, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738. To ensure that NRC has current information, a streamlined process for updating the e-Library is being developed and will be shared with licensees at a future date.

NRC will use the provided documents for incident response purposes and will label them as controlled documents. These documents will not be made available routinely to the public but could be subject to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Documents that contain sensitive information should be labeled according to the guidance set forth in RIS 2005-26.

VOLUNTARY RESPONSE

This RIS requests licensee assistance in obtaining documents relevant to responding to an emergency at the licensee's facility. Addressees that choose to participate may do so by submitting the documents listed in the applicable enclosure in accordance with the guidance

contained in this RIS. Submission of this information is voluntary and is not a backfit under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 50.109, "Backfitting" (10 CFR 50.109). However, NRC believes that providing the information will be advantageous to both the industry and NRC.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS requires no action or written response. Any action on the part of addressees to provide the documents listed in the applicable enclosure in accordance with the guidance contained in this RIS is strictly voluntary and, therefore, is not a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109. Consequently, the NRC staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

NRC did not publish a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS in the *Federal Register* 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. §§ 801-888) and, therefore, is not subject to the Act.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS contains information collection requests that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Approval No. 3150-0011, which expires February 28, 2007. The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 15 hours per response for respondents who already have the documents requested in Adobe electronic format and 20 hours per response for respondents who must convert their existing documents into Adobe electronic format. The burden hours per response include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection.

Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to Infocollects@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. (Note that NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.)

CONTACT

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

/RA by John W. Lubinski for/

Ho K. Nieh, Acting Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact: Michael I. Dudek, NSIR/DPR
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Enclosures:

1. Pressurized Water Reactor Documents for the Incident Response Electronic Library
2. Boiling Water Reactor Documents for the Incident Response Electronic Library

Note: NRC generic communications may be found on NRC public Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>, under Electronic Reading Room/Document Collections.

Pressurized Water Reactor Documents for the Incident Response Electronic Library

The documents that NRC is requesting from you in electronic Adobe Acrobat format are listed below:

- Current Site Photographs & Layout Drawings
 - Aerial Photographs (3-4 in Numerous Directions)
 - Side-View Photographs (2-3 in Numerous Directions)
 - Site Layout Drawings (Simplified and Detailed Drawings with Labeled Buildings and Major Structures)

- Simplified Plant Drawings
 - Building Layout Drawings (Floor Layouts of Major Buildings, Labeled Major Pieces of Machinery) (e.g., Pre-Fire Strategy Notebooks)
 - Simplified One-Line Diagrams of Plant Systems (Generally Used in Operator Training Materials) or P&IDs
 - Reactor Vessel Water Level Drawings
 - Release Pathway Drawings

- Operating Procedures
 - Emergency Operating Procedures (EOPs)
 - Abnormal Operating Procedures (AOPs)
 - Functional Restoration Procedures (FRPs)
 - Contingency Action Procedures (CAPs)
 - Critical Safety Function Status Trees

- Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)
 - Severe Accident Control Room Response Guides (SACRGs)
 - Severe Challenge Status Trees (SCSTs)
 - Severe Accident Guides (SAGs)
 - Severe Challenge Guides (SCGs)
 - Computational Aids (CAs)

- Emergency Plans (EPs)
 - Radiological Emergency Plan (REP)
 - Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures (EPIPs)
 - Emergency Action Level (EAL) Flowcharts
 - Protective Action Recommendation (PAR) Flowcharts
 - EPZ Maps (10- and 50-mile EPZ Maps)
 - Siren Location Maps

- Organization Charts and Contact Information
 - Utility Org. Chart and Contact Information
 - Plant Org. Chart and Contact Information
 - Emergency Response Facility Directory

Boiling Water Reactor Documents for the Incident Response Electronic Library

The documents that NRC is requesting from you in electronic Adobe Acrobat format are listed below:

- Current Site Photographs & Layout Drawings
 - Aerial Photographs (3-4 in Numerous Directions)
 - Side-View Photographs (2-3 in Numerous Directions)
 - Site Layout Drawings (Simplified and Detailed Drawings with Labeled Buildings and Major Structures)

- Simplified Plant Drawings
 - Building Layout Drawings (Floor Layouts of Major Buildings, Labeled Major Pieces of Machinery) (e.g., Pre-Fire Strategy Notebooks)
 - Simplified One-Line Diagrams of Plant Systems (Generally Used in Operator Training Materials) or P&IDs
 - Reactor Vessel Water Level Drawings
 - Release Pathway Drawings

- Operating Procedures
 - Emergency Operating Procedures (EOPs)
 - EOP Flowcharts

- Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)

- Emergency Plans (EPs)
 - Radiological Emergency Plan (REP)
 - Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures (EPIPs)
 - Emergency Action Level (EAL) Flowcharts
 - Protective Action Recommendation (PAR) Flowcharts
 - EPZ Maps (10- and 50-mile EPZ Maps)
 - Siren Location Maps

- Organization Charts & Contact Information
 - Utility Org. Chart and Contact Information
 - Plant Org. Chart and Contact Information
 - Emergency Response Facility Directory