

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

May 22, 2002

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2002-08
AVAILABILITY OF THE TOPICAL REPORT PROGRAM
DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF STAFF REVIEWS ON THE NRC WEB SITE**

ADDRESSEES

All holders of construction permits or operating licenses for nuclear power reactors (including those that have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel), formal nuclear industry groups, and nuclear steam supply system vendors.

INTENT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to announce the replacement for NUREG-0390, "Topical Report Review Status." A description of the topical report program and the current status of topical report reviews can now be found on the NRC's Public Web site, at <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/licensing/topical-reports.html>.

This RIS does not transmit any new requirements or staff positions, and does not require any specific action or written response.

BACKGROUND

Under the NRC's topical report program, a licensee or industry organization may, on its own initiative or at the request of the NRC staff, submit topical reports on specific safety-related topics independent of any construction permit or operating license review. The purpose of the program is to minimize the time and effort required of both the industry and the NRC by allowing a single review and approval of the safety-related topic, rather than repetitive reviews of the same topic.

To define the procedures for submittal, review, and approval of topical reports under this program, the NRC issued NUREG-0390. The appendix to NUREG-0390 also listed the topical reports that were currently under NRC review. Recently, the agency modified its Public Web site to include a Web page that supersedes NUREG-0390, while continuing to provide the industry with procedures for submitting topical reports, guidance on how the NRC processes and responds to topical report submittals, and the current status of topical reports that have been accepted for review by the NRC.

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ISSUE SUMMARY

Because it was paper-based, NUREG-0390 was time consuming to maintain and became outdated soon after it was published. The newly created NRC Web page will be substantially easier to maintain and keep current. This Web page describes the NRC's topical report program and provides procedures for the submittal, review, and approval of topical reports. It also provides the status of topical reports currently under NRC review.

The guidance presented on the topical report program Web page is generally the same as in NUREG-0390. However, the guidance on the Web page does include the following significant changes from NUREG-0390:

- The NRC has decreased the number of hard copies required when submitting a topical report.
- The NRC has added a discussion of review fees and fee waiver provisions.
- The NRC has also modified the details regarding NRC requests for additional information during the review cycle.
- The NRC has also modified the details regarding placement of topical reports and associated documents in the agency's public document room.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

This RIS does not require any action or written response. Therefore, this RIS does not constitute a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, and the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

This RIS is informational and pertains a previously approved NRC program. Consequently, the staff did not publish a notice of opportunity for public comment in the *Federal Register*.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS does not require any specific action or written response, and does not request the collection of any new information.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the person listed below or the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager for a specific vendor or industry group as indicated on the new Web site.

/RA/

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Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Regulatory Issue Summaries