

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AND STATE MATERIALS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 28, 2007

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2007-08: POTENTIAL VULNERABILITIES OF TIME-
RELIANT COMPUTER-BASED SYSTEMS DUE
TO CHANGE IN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
DATES

ADDRESSEES

All U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees and all Agreement State Radiation Control Program Directors and State Liaison Officers.

PURPOSE

The NRC is issuing this information notice (IN) to inform addressees of the potential vulnerabilities of computer-based systems and devices due to the change in the start and end dates of Daylight Savings Time (DST) in 2007. This change could potentially cause problems for computer-based systems and devices that employ time-dependent processes that have not been set to synchronize with the 2007 DST change. This IN is issued to ensure that all recipients are aware of the start and end date changes to DST and the potential for problems this change could cause.

It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid any problems. However, suggestions contained in this information notice are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 included a change in start and end dates of DST beginning in 2007. This year, DST will be extended by a month starting about three weeks sooner, and ending a week later than usual. Specifically, DST will begin on March 11, 2007, and end on November 4, 2007, therefore, clocks will be set ahead 1 hour on March 11, 2007, and will be set back 1 hour on November 4, 2007.

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DISCUSSION

There are many computer-based systems that may be vulnerable to the 2007 DST changes. Examples include software to perform system control, data logging, and time-related calculations. The DST changes may also have impacts on other time-dependent computer systems, such as corporate and local Information Technology systems, communication systems, and security systems.

CONTACT

This IN requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact the technical contact below, or the appropriate regional office.

/RA/

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