

# Withdrawn

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2012-07, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated June 8, 2012, has been withdrawn.

ADAMS Accession Number: ML120650174

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

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

June 8, 2012

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2012-07  
PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF  
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

**ADDRESSEES**

All holders of or applicants for a power reactor operating license or construction permit under 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 under 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 on the estimated number 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**

Subpart E, "Written Examinations and Operating Tests," of 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," contains the relevant NRC regulations. In particular, 10 CFR 55.40, "Implementation," permits nuclear power reactor 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," subject to 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." Under 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 examinations and operating tests.

In RIS 2011-04, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," dated May 25, 2011, the NRC asked power reactor licensees to voluntarily submit proposed

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schedules of examinations they intended to prepare and estimate the number of applicants to be tested for onsite examinations and GFEs in calendar years (CYs) 2013 through 2016.

This RIS requests that licensees voluntarily update examination schedules and applicant estimates for CYs 2014 through 2017.

## **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 annually. Consequently, the NRC has found it helpful to request an annual update of the operator licensing examination needs of power reactor facility licensees. 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 licensees evaluate their 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 if the licensee or the NRC will prepare the exam. For those utilities not planning to construct a new plant, their response should consider the impact of licensed operators moving between utilities to fill the 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 2014 through 2017. 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 and licensee examination development is permitted and should be coordinated with the NRC regional office. You should address any schedule changes that are required following submission of your RIS response in a letter to the applicable NRC regional office for agreement to and coordination of changes to examination administration.

### **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 the applicable columns as appropriate through CY 2017.

### **C. Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule**

Estimate by month the number of applicants who plan to take the GFE in CYs 2014 and 2015. As the industry has requested, 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 contains and references information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collection requirements were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval numbers 3150-0011, 3150-0151, 3150-0018 and 3150-0131.

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION**

The 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 contacts listed below.

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Enclosure: As Stated

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Enclosure: As Stated

**ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML120650174**

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OFFICE	C:PGCB:DPR	D:DPR				
NAME	KMorganButler/EBowman for	TMcGinty/SBahadur for				
DATE	6/1/12	6/8/12				

OFFICIAL RECORD

<b>NRC FORM 536</b> <small>(9-2011)</small>		<b>U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION</b>		<b>APPROVED BY OMB: NO. 3150-0131</b>		<b>EXPIRES: 09/30/2014</b>		
<b>OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DATA</b>				<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 Information Services Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to <a href="mailto:Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov">Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov</a>, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOS-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>				
FACILITY						NRC REGION		
<b>A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE</b>								
<b>PROPOSED NUMBER</b>	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS								
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS								
<b>B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS</b>								
<b>PROPOSED NUMBER</b>	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	CY ____	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								
<b>PROPOSED DATES</b>								
PRIMARY DATE								
ALTERNATE DATE								
<b>C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE</b>								
<b>PROPOSED NUMBER</b>	CY ____				CY ____			
	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES								