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[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2015-0211]

Instrumentation and Controls Guidance

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Standard review plan-final section revision; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a final revision to Chapter 7, "Instrumentation and Controls," of NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan (SRP) for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants: LWR Edition."

DATES: The effective date of this SRP update is **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2015-0211** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may access publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2015-0211**. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; e-mail: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document.

- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):**

You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “[ADAMS Public Documents](#)” and then select “[Begin Web-based ADAMS Search](#).” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. For the convenience of the reader, the ADAMS accession numbers are provided in a table in the “Availability of Documents” section of this document.

- **NRC’s PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC’s PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Lauron, telephone: 301-415-2736; e-mail: Carolyn.Lauron@nrc.gov or Mark Notich, telephone: 301-415-3053; e-mail: Mark.Notich@nrc.gov; both are staff of the Office of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On September 16, 2015 (80 FR 55654), the NRC published for public comment the proposed revisions to Chapter 7 of the SRP. The NRC made no changes to the proposed revisions after the consideration of comments received. A summary of the comments and the

NRC staff's disposition of the comments are available in a separate document, "Response to Public Comments on Draft SRP Sections in Chapter 7."

The Office of New Reactors and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation are revising these sections from their current versions. Details of specific changes in the proposed revisions are included at the end of each of the proposed sections.

The changes to this SRP chapter reflect current NRC staff's review methods and practices based on lessons learned from the NRC's reviews of design certification and combined license applications completed since the last revision of this chapter.

II. Backfitting and Finality Provisions

Issuance of these revised SRP sections does not constitute backfitting as defined in § 50.109 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), "Backfitting," (the Backfit Rule) and is not inconsistent with the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52. The NRC's position is based upon the following considerations:

1. The SRP positions do not constitute backfitting, inasmuch as the SRP is internal guidance directed at the NRC staff with respect to their regulatory responsibilities.

The SRP provides guidance to the staff on how to review an application for the NRC's regulatory approval in the form of licensing. Changes in internal staff guidance are not matters for which either nuclear power plant applicants or licensees are protected under either the Backfit Rule or the issue finality provisions of 10 CFR part 52.

2. The NRC staff has no intention to impose the SRP positions on current licensees and regulatory approvals either now or in the future.

The staff does not intend to impose or apply the positions described in the SRP to existing (already issued) licenses and regulatory approvals. Therefore, the issuance of a final SRP – even if considered guidance that is within the purview of the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52 – need not be evaluated as if it were a backfit or as being inconsistent with issue finality provisions. If, in the future, the staff seeks to impose a position in the SRP on holders of already issued licenses in a manner which does not provide issue finality as described in the applicable issue finality provision, then the staff must make the showing as set forth in the Backfit Rule or address the criteria for avoiding issue finality as described in the applicable issue finality provision.

3. *Backfitting and issue finality do not – with limited exceptions not applicable here – protect current or future applicants.*

Applicants and potential applicants are not, with certain exceptions, protected by either the Backfit Rule or any issue finality provisions under 10 CFR part 52. This is because neither the Backfit Rule nor the issue finality provisions under 10 CFR part 52 – with certain exclusions discussed in the next paragraph – were intended to apply to every NRC action which substantially changes the expectations of current and future applicants.

The exceptions to the general principle are applicable whenever an applicant references a 10 CFR part 52 license (e.g., an early site permit) and/or NRC regulatory approval (e.g., a design certification rule) with specified issue finality provisions. The staff does not, at this time, intend to impose the positions represented in the SRP in a manner that is inconsistent with any issue finality provisions. If, in the future, the staff seeks to impose a position in the SRP in a manner which does not provide issue finality as described in the applicable issue finality provision, then the staff must address the criteria for avoiding issue finality as described in the applicable issue finality provision.

III. Congressional Review Act

This action is a rule as defined in the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 801-808). However, the Office of Management and Budget has not found it to be a major rule as defined in the Congressional Review Act.

IV. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons.

Document	ADAMS Accession No.
Summary of Comments and NRC Staff Disposition of Comments – Response to Public Comments on Draft SRP Sections in Chapter 7	ML16050A366
SRP 7.0, “Instrumentation and Controls - Overview of Review Process,” Revision 7	ML16020A049
SRP 7.1, “Instrumentation and Controls – Introduction,” Revision 6	ML16020A050
Table 7-1, “Table 7-1 Regulatory Requirements, Acceptance Criteria, and Guidelines for Instrumentation and Control Systems Important to Safety,” Revision 6	ML16020A103
SRP 7.2, “Reactor Trip System,” Revision 6	ML16020A059

SRP 7.3, "Engineered Safety Features Systems," Revision 6	ML16020A082
SRP 7.4, "Safe Shutdown Systems," Revision 6	ML16020A086
SRP 7.5, "Information Systems Important to Safety," Revision 6	ML16020A088
SRP 7.6, "Interlock Systems Important to Safety," Revision 6	ML16020A092
SRP 7.7, "Control Systems," Revision 6	ML16020A095
SRP 7.8, "Diverse Instrumentation and Control Systems," Revision 6	ML16020A096
SRP 7.9, "Data Communication Systems," Revision 6	ML16020A097

Document	ADAMS Accession No.
App. 7.0-A, "Review Process for Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems," Revision 6	ML16019A085
App. 7.1-A, "Acceptance Criteria and Guidelines for Instrumentation and Controls Systems Important to Safety," Revision 6	ML16019A088
App. 7.1-B, "Guidance for Evaluation of Conformance to IEEE Std 279," Revision 6	ML16019A091
App. 7.1-C, "Guidance for Evaluation of Conformance to IEEE Std 603," Revision 6	ML16019A107
App. 7.1-D, "Guidance for Evaluation of the Application of IEEE Std 7-4.3.2," Revision 1	ML16019A114
BTP 7-1, "Guidance on Isolation of Low-Pressure Systems from the High-Pressure Reactor Coolant System," Revision 6	ML16019A127
BTP 7-2, "Guidance on Requirements of Motor-Operated Valves in the Emergency Core Cooling System Accumulator Lines," Revision 6	ML16019A299
BTP 7-3, "Guidance on Protection System Trip Point Changes for Operation with Reactor Coolant Pumps Out of Service," Revision 6	ML16019A358
BTP 7-4, "Guidance on Design Criteria for Auxiliary Feedwater Systems," Revision 6	ML16020A028
BTP 7-5, "Guidance on Spurious Withdrawals of Single Control Rods in Pressurized Water Reactors," Revision 6	ML16020A033
BTP 7-6, "Guidance on Design of Instrumentation and Controls Provided to Accomplish Changeover from Injection to Recirculation Mode," Revision 6	ML16011A106
BTP 7-8, "Guidance for Application of Regulatory Guide 1.22," Revision 6	ML16020A044
BTP 7-9, "Guidance on Requirements for Reactor Protection System Anticipatory Trips," Revision 6	ML16011A062
BTP 7-10, "Guidance on Application of Regulatory Guide 1.97," Revision 6	ML16019A169
BTP 7-11, "Guidance on Application and Qualification of Isolation Devices," Revision 6	ML16019A184
BTP 7-12, "Guidance on Establishing and Maintaining Instrument Setpoints," Revision 6	ML16019A200
BTP 7-13, "Guidance on Cross-Calibration of Protection System Resistance Temperature Detectors," Revision 6	ML16019A240
BTP 7-14, "Guidance on Software Reviews for Digital Computer-Based Instrumentation and Control Systems," Revision 6	ML16019A308
BTP 7-17, "Guidance on Self-Test and Surveillance Test Provisions," Revision 6	ML16019A316
BTP 7-18, "Guidance on the Use of Programmable Logic Controllers in Digital Computer-Based Instrumentation and Control Systems," Revision 6	ML16019A327

Document	ADAMS Accession No.
BTP 7-19, "Guidance for Evaluation of Diversity and Defense-in-Depth in Digital Computer-Based Instrumentation and Control Systems," Revision 7	ML16019A344
BTP 7-21, "Guidance on Digital Computer Real-Time Performance," Revision 6	ML16020A036

* No changes resulting from public comments. See documents in the package at ADAMS Accession No. ML16008B013 to see changes made since the last proposed revision.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of August, 2016.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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