

subject systems are in compliance with the current licensing and design bases and applicable regulatory requirements, and that suitable design, operational, and testing control measures are in place for maintaining this compliance; and (2) collect the requested information to determine whether additional regulatory action is required. As a result of its review of the GL 2008–01 responses, the NRC identified that some plant-specific TS did not cover all systems or locations susceptible to gas accumulation. Accordingly, the NRC staff determined that enhancements to TSs and the standard technical specifications (STSs) were desirable. The nuclear industry undertook two primary initiatives to address the desired regulatory guidance and TS enhancements, NEI 09–10 and TSTF–523. The NRC issued RIS 2013–09, “NRC Endorsement of NEI 09–10, Revision 1a-A, ‘Guidelines for Effective Prevention and Management of System Gas Accumulation’” (ADAMS Accession No. ML13178A152), to endorse NEI 09–10 as an acceptable and recommended approach for managing gas accumulation. The NRC staff approved for use TSTF–523, Revision 2, in a **Federal Register** notice on January 15, 2014 (79 FR 2700).

Although the NRC issued plant-specific closure letters following its review of information submitted in response to GL 2008–01, the closure letters did not address development of additional regulatory guidance or enhancements to both plant-specific TS and STS requirements. The NRC staff accepted the incorporation of a gas management program consistent with NEI 09–10 and the adoption of TSTF–523 as approaches for plants to sufficiently demonstrate the continued operability of safety significant systems susceptible to gas accumulation.

III. Request for Comment

This draft RIS sets forth the regulatory history of the NRC’s concerns with gas accumulation, as summarized above in Section II, “Background.” This draft RIS, if finalized would advise affected entities that those licensees who choose not to implement NEI 09–10 and TSTF–523 must ensure, through some appropriate means, that systems remain operable with respect to the potential for accumulation of gas, in accordance with their plant-specific TSs and their plants’ licensing basis.

The NRC requests public comments on the draft RIS. The NRC staff will make a final determination regarding issuance of the RIS after it considers any public comments received in response to this request. The draft RIS is available

in ADAMS under Accession No. ML16244A787.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 06th day of February 2017.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sheldon D. Stuchell,

*Chief, Generic Communications Branch,
Division of Policy and Rulemaking, Office
of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 2017–02866 Filed 2–10–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2015–0161]

Comprehensive Vibration Assessment Program for Reactor Internals During Preoperational and Startup Testing

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Regulatory guide; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing Revision 4 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.20, “Comprehensive Vibration Assessment Program for Reactor Internals During Preoperational and Startup Testing.” This RG describes methods and procedures that the NRC staff considers acceptable when developing a comprehensive vibration assessment program for reactor internals during preoperational and startup testing.

DATES: Revision 4 to RG 1.20 is available on February 13, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2015–0161 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publically-available information related to this document, using the following methods:

- Federal Rulemaking Web site: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2015–0161. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301–415–3463; email: 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 publically-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Document 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 email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document. Revision 4 to Regulatory Guide 1.20, and the regulatory analysis may be found in ADAMS under Accession Nos. ML16056A338 and ML15083A388, respectively.

- 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.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Scarbrough, Office of New Reactors, telephone: 301–415–2794, email: Thomas.Scarbrough@nrc.gov; Yuken Wong, Office of New Reactors, telephone: 301–415–0500, email: Yuken.Wong@nrc.gov, and Stephen Burton, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301–15–7000, email: Stephen.Burton@nrc.gov. All are staff members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The NRC is issuing a revision to an existing guide in the NRC’s “Regulatory Guide” series. This series was developed to describe and make available to the public information regarding methods that are acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the agency’s regulations, techniques that the NRC staff uses in evaluating specific issues or postulated events, and data that the NRC staff needs in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Revision 4 of RG 1.20 was issued with a temporary identification of Draft Regulatory Guide, DG–1323. This revision expands the guidance related to flow-induced vibration, acoustic resonance, acoustic-induced vibration, and mechanical-induced vibration for boiling water reactor, pressurized water reactor, and small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear power plants. For SMRs, this includes guidance for the control rod drive system and control rod drive mechanisms, which might be contained in an integral reactor vessel module. The additional guidance in Revision 4 is based in part on lessons learned from the review of recent applications, including both new plant applications and extended power uprate applications. In addition, Revision 4 re-

defines and clarifies the prototype, limited prototype, and non-prototype classifications of reactor internal configurations.

II. Additional Information

The DG-1323 was published in the **Federal Register** on July 2, 2015 (80 FR 38239) for a 60-day public comment period. The public comment period closed on August 31, 2015. Public comments on DG-1323 and the NRC staff responses to the public comments are available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML16056A341.

III. Congressional Review Act

This regulatory guide 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. Backfitting and Issue Finality

Issuance of this regulatory guide does not constitute backfitting as defined in section 50.109 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) (the Backfit Rule), and is not otherwise inconsistent with the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52. This regulatory guide does not apply to any nuclear reactor construction permits or operating licenses under 10 CFR part 50, design certifications and combined licenses under 10 CFR part 52, or license amendment requests for extended power uprates at operating reactors already issued by the NRC prior to issuance of the regulatory guide. The NRC has already completed its review of the comprehensive vibration assessment programs (CVAPs) for power reactor internals for these construction permits, operating licenses, design certifications, combined operating licenses, and license amendments for extended power uprates. Therefore, no further NRC regulatory action with respect to CVAPs will occur for those licenses, permits, certifications, and authorizations for which the guidance in the regulatory guide is relevant, absent voluntary action by the licensees to use the guidance to demonstrate compliance with the underlying NRC regulations. The regulatory guide may be applied to applications for construction permits, operating licenses, design certifications, combined licenses, and license amendments for extended power uprates, any of which are docketed and under review by the NRC as of the date of issuance of the regulatory guide. The regulatory guide may also be applied to applications for construction permits, operating licenses, design certifications,

combined licenses, and license amendments for extended power uprates, any of which are submitted after the issuance of the regulatory guide. Such action would not constitute backfitting as defined in 10 CFR 50.109(a)(1) and is not otherwise inconsistent with the applicable issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52 because such 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 below—was intended to apply to every NRC action that 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), NRC regulatory approval (*e.g.*, a design certification rule), or both, with specified issue finality provisions. The NRC does not, at this time, intend to impose the positions represented in the regulatory guide in a manner that is inconsistent with any issue finality provisions. If, in the future, the staff seeks to impose a position in the regulatory guide in a manner that 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.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of February, 2017.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Thomas H. Boyce,
Chief, Regulatory Guidance and Generic Issues Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 2017-02864 Filed 2-10-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2017-0001]

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE: February 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 2017.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

Week of February 13, 2017

Thursday, February 16, 2017

8:55 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (Tentative)

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. (Vogle Electric Generation Plant, Units 3 and 4), Intervenor's Appeal of LBP-16-10 (Tentative)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.

9:00 a.m. Briefing on Lessons Learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident (Public Meeting) (Contact: Andrew Proffitt: 301-415-1418)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.

Friday, February 17, 2017

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Project Aim (Public Meeting) (Contact: Tammy Bloomer: 301-415-1785)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.

Week of February 20, 2017—Tentative

Thursday, February 23, 2017

9:30 a.m. Joint Meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Public Meeting) (Contact: Denise McGovern)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.

Week of February 27, 2017—Tentative

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

10:00 a.m. Briefing on NRC International Activities (Closed Ex. 1 & 9)

Thursday, March 2, 2017

9:00 a.m. Strategic Programmatic Overview of the Fuel Facilities and the Nuclear Materials Users Business Lines (Public Meeting) (Contact: Soly Soto; 301-415-7528)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.

Week of March 6, 2017—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of March 6, 2017.

Week of March 13, 2017—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of March 13, 2017.

Week of March 20, 2017—Tentative

Thursday, March 23, 2017

9:00 a.m. Hearing on Combined Licenses for North Anna Nuclear Plant, Unit 3: Section 189a. of the Atomic Energy Act Proceeding (Public Meeting) (Contact: James Shea: 301-415-1388)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov/>.