II. Backfitting and Issue Finality

Chapter 5 of the SRP provides guidance to the staff for reviewing reactor coolant and connected systems information included in licensing applications. BTP 5–3 of the SRP provides guidance for the review of information addressing piping systems and components.

Issuance of this SRP section revision does not constitute backfitting as defined in section 50.109 (the Backfit Rule) of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) nor is it 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 guidance directed to the NRC staff with respect to its regulatory responsibilities. The SRP provides guidance to the NRC staff on how to review an application for NRC regulatory approval in the form of licensing. Changes in guidance intended for use by only the staff are not matters that constitute backfitting as that term is defined in 10 CFR 50.109(a)(1) or involve the issue finality provisions of 10 CFR part 52.

2. Backfitting and issue finality—With certain exceptions discussed below—do not apply to current or future applicants.

Applicants and potential applicants are not, with certain exceptions, the subject of 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 of 10 CFR part 52 were 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 a 10 CFR part 50 operating license applicant references a construction permit or a 10 CFR part 52 combined license applicant references a license (e.g., an early site permit) and/or an NRC regulatory approval (e.g., a design certification rule) for which specified issue finality provisions apply.

The NRC staff does not currently intend to impose the positions represented in this final SRP section in a manner that constitutes backfitting or is inconsistent with any issue finality provision of 10 CFR part 52. If in the future the NRC staff seeks to impose positions stated in this SRP section in a manner that would constitute backfitting or be inconsistent with these issue finality provisions, the NRC staff must make the showing as set forth in the Backfit Rule or address the regulatory criteria set forth in the applicable issue finality provision, as applicable, that would allow the staff to impose the position.

3. The NRC staff has no intention to impose the SRP positions on existing nuclear power plant licensees either now or in the future (absent a voluntary request for a change from the licensee, holder of a regulatory approval or a design certification applicant).

The staff does not intend to impose or apply the positions described in this final SRP section to existing (already issued) licenses (e.g., operating licenses and combined licenses) and regulatory approvals. Hence, the issuance of this SRP guidance—even if considered guidance subject to the Backfit Rule or the issue finality provisions in 10 CFR part 52—would need not be evaluated as if it were a backfit or as being inconsistent with issue finality provisions. If, in the future, the NRC staff seeks to impose a position in the SRP on holders of already issued licenses in a manner that would constitute backfitting or does not provide issue finality as described in the applicable issue finality provision, then the staff must make a showing as set forth in the Backfit Rule or address the criteria set forth in the applicable issue finality provision, as applicable, that would allow the staff to impose the position.

III. Congressional Review Act


For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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Chief (Acting), Division of Licensing, Siting, and Environmental Analysis, Licensing Branch 3, Office of New Reactors.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program Between the Office of Personnel Management and Social Security Administration

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management
ACTION: Notice of a re-established matching program.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 and the Computer Matching Privacy Protection Amendment of 1990 (Privacy Act), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance on the conduct of matching programs, notice is hereby given of the reestablishment of a matching program between the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Social Security Administration (SSA). This matching program, Computer Matching Agreement 1045, is being re-established to enable SSA to disclose wage and self-employment income information to OPM. OPM will match SSA’s information with OPM’s records on disability retirees under age 60, disabled adult child survivors, certain retirees in receipt of a supplemental benefit under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), and certain annuitants receiving a discontinued service retirement benefit under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). The law limits the amount these retirees, survivors, and annuitants can earn while retaining benefits paid to them. Retirement benefits cease upon re-employment in Federal service for discontinued service annuitants. OPM will use the earnings and self-employment information from SSA to determine continued eligibility for benefits under OPM programs.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES: OPM and SSA.

AUTHORITY FOR CONDUCTING THE MATCHING PROGRAM: Legal authorities for the disclosures under this agreement are 5 U.S.C. 8337(d), 8341(a)(4)(B), 8344(a)(4)(b), and 8468, which establish earnings limitations for certain CSRS and FERS annuants. The authority to terminate benefits may be found in 5 U.S.C. 8341(e)(3)(B) and 8443(b)(3)(B). The Internal Revenue Code (IRC), at 26 U.S.C. 6103(l)(11), requires SSA to disclose tax return information to OPM upon request for purposes of the administration of chapters 83 and 84 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this agreement between OPM and SSA is to assist OPM in meeting its legal obligation to offset benefits payable by OPM to annuitants. SSA will disclose income and tax return information to OPM. OPM will use the information obtained from SSA to match against OPM’s records of disability retirees under age 60, disabled adult-child survivors, certain retirees receiving supplemental benefit under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), and certain annuitants receiving a discontinued service retirement benefit under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). Because the law limits the amount these individuals can earn and still retain the benefits paid to them by OPM, OPM will use the SSA information to determine and individual’s continued eligibility to receive a benefit from OPM.

CATEGORIES INDIVIDUALS: The individuals whose information is involved in this matching program are those disability retirees under the age of 60, disabled adult-child survivors, certain retirees in receipt of a supplemental benefit under the FERS, and certain annuitants receiving a discontinued service retirement benefit under the CSRS who receive benefits from OPM. SSA will provide information about these individuals by referencing their master file of all individuals with Social Security numbers (SSN) and their file of earnings and self-employment records.

CATHERGIES OF RECORDS: The categories of records involved in this matching program include the full name, SSN, date of birth, and the tax year for requested earnings for those individuals about who the match is being conducted. In turn, SSA will disclose the following records to OPM: Employer identification number, name, address, wage amount from Form W-2, and earnings amounts form self-employment income.


Office of Personnel Management.

Aleexy Stanley, Regulatory Affairs Analyst.

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