

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2019-0111]

Pre-Earthquake Planning, Shutdown, and Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Following an Earthquake

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Regulatory guide; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.166, “Pre-Earthquake Planning, Shutdown, and Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Following an Earthquake.” This revision of RG 1.166 merges two related RGs, that is, RG 1.166 and RG 1.167, “Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Shut Down by a Seismic Event.” The guides were merged because they are similar in nature and contain overlapping guidance. RG 1.167 is being withdrawn concurrently because it is no longer needed.

DATES: Revision 1 to RG 1.166 is available on February 21, 2020. The withdrawal of RG 1.167 takes effect on February 21, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2019-0111 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2019-0111. Address questions about NRC docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; email: Jennifer.Borges@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 <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, 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. RG 1.166 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML19266A616.

- *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: Vladimir Graizer, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, telephone: 301-415-2380, email: Vladimir.Graizer@nrc.gov; Thomas Weaver, telephone: 301-415-2383, email: Thomas.Weaver@nrc.gov; and Edward O’Donnell, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301-415-3317, email: Edward.O'Donnell@nrc.gov. All are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Discussion

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 1 of RG 1.166 was issued for public comment as Draft Regulatory Guide (DG), DG-1337. It merges RG 1.166, “Pre-Earthquake Planning and Immediate Nuclear Power Operator Post-earthquake Actions,” and RG 1.167, “Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Shutdown by a Seismic Event.” The revised guide incorporates lessons learned following shutdown and restart of nuclear power plants due to earthquake ground motion and post-earthquake evaluations since issuance of the two RGs in 1997. The revised guide provides guidance acceptable to the NRC staff regarding pre-earthquake planning actions, actions to determine the need to shutdown a nuclear power plant and the short-term and long-term processes, inspections and tests that are acceptable to demonstrate that a nuclear power plant is safe for restarting after a shutdown due to an earthquake. The guide endorses with some clarifications, American National Standards Institute/American Nuclear Society (ANSI/ANS)-2.23-2016, “Nuclear Power Plant Response to an Earthquake,” and ANSI/ANS-2.10-2017, “Criteria for Retrieval, Processing, Handling, and Storage of Records from Nuclear Facility Seismic Instrumentation.”

II. Additional Information

The NRC published a notice of the availability of DG-1337 in the **Federal Register** on June 14, 2019 (84 FR 27809) for a 60-day public comment period. The public comment period closed on

August 13, 2019. Public comments on DG-1337 and the staff responses to the public comments are available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML19266A619.

III. Congressional Review Act

This RG 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, Forward Fitting, and Issue Finality

Issuance of this regulatory guide does not constitute backfitting as defined in title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) section 50.109, “Backfitting,” and as described in NRC Management Directive 8.4, “Management of Backfitting, Forward Fitting, Issue Finality, and Information Requests”; constitute forward fitting as that term is defined and described in Management Directive 8.4; or affect issue finality of any approval issued under 10 CFR part 52, “Licenses, Certificates, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants.” As explained in this regulatory guide, applicants and licensees are not required to comply with the positions set forth in this regulatory guide.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of February 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stanley J. Gardocki,

Acting Chief, Regulatory Guidance and Generic Issues Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 2020-03439 Filed 2-20-20; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2019-0111]

Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Shut Down by an Earthquake

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Regulatory guide; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is withdrawing regulatory guide (RG), RG 1.167 “Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Shut Down by an Earthquake.” The guide is being withdrawn because its guidance has been incorporated into a related guide, namely RG 1.166 “Pre-Earthquake Planning, Shutdown, and Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Following an Earthquake.”

DATES: The effective date of the withdrawal of RG 1.167 is February 21, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2019–0111 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2019–0111. Address questions about NRC dockets IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301–287–9127; email: Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual(s) 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 “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 available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced. The basis for withdrawal of RG 1.167 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML19266A631.

- *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: Vladimir Graizer, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, telephone: 301–415–2380, email: Vladimir.Graizer@nrc.gov; Thomas Weaver, telephone: 301–415–2383, email: Thomas.Weaver@nrc.gov; and Edward O’Donnell, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, telephone: 301–415–3317, email: Edward.O'Donnell@nrc.gov. All are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Regulatory guides may be withdrawn by the NRC when their guidance no longer provides useful information, or is superseded by technological innovations, congressional actions, or other events. The NRC is withdrawing RG 1.167 because its guidance has been incorporated into RG 1.166, “Pre-

Earthquake Planning, Shutdown, and Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Following an Earthquake” (ADAMS Accession No. ML19266A616).

II. Further Information

The withdrawal of RG 1.167 does not alter any prior or existing NRC licensing approval or the acceptability of licensee commitments to this RG. Although RG 1.167 is withdrawn, current licensees may continue to use it, and withdrawal does not affect any existing licenses or agreements. However, by withdrawing RG 1.167, the NRC no longer approves the guidance in this RG for use in future requests or applications for NRC licensing actions.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of February 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stanley J. Gardocki,

Acting Chief, Regulatory Guidance and Generic Issues Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

671st Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) will hold meetings on March 5–7, 2020, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, ACRS Conference Room T2D10, Rockville, MD 20852.

Thursday, March 5, 2020, Conference Room T2D10

8:30 a.m.–8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:35 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: NuScale Areas of Focus: Steam Generator Design, Containment Evacuation System, and Hydrogen & Oxygen Monitoring (Open/Closed)—The Committee will have briefing and discussion with representatives of NRC staff and NuScale regarding subject areas of focus. [*Note:* A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

1:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m.: NuScale Topical Reports: Loss of Coolant Accident

(LOCA), Non-LOCA and Rod Ejection Accident Methodologies (Open/Closed)—The Committee will have briefing and discussion with representatives of NRC staff and NuScale regarding subject areas of focus. [*Note:* A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

4:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports. [*Note:* A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

Friday, March 6, 2020, Conference Room T2D10

8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.: Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee and Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations (Open/Closed)—The Committee will hear discussion of the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the Full Committee during future ACRS meetings. [*Note:* A portion of this meeting may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of the ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.] [*Note:* A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

10:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Biennial Review of NRC Safety Research Program (Open)—The Committee will have a discussion regarding the safety research program.

1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports. [*Note:* A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].

Saturday, March 7, 2020, Conference Room T2D10

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open/Closed)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports. [*Note:* A portion of this session may be closed in order to discuss and protect information designated as proprietary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4)].