

measurements, financial and cost data, and program administrative data. The NRC carries out evidence-building and evaluation activities to (1) identify, evaluate, and resolve safety issues; (2) ensure that an independent technical basis exists to review licensee submittals; (3) evaluate operating experience and results of risk assessments for safety implications; and (4) support the development and use of risk-informed regulatory approaches.

#### *Evaluation Standards*

The NRC staff will use the following evaluation standards when conducting evaluations.

1. **Rigor**—The NRC is committed to using rigorous evaluation methods by qualified evaluators with relevant education, skills, and experience to ensure evaluations are appropriate and feasible within statutory, budgetary, and other constraints.

Rigorous evaluations require inferences about cause and effect to be well founded (internal validity); clarity about the populations, settings, or circumstances to which results can be generalized (external validity); and the use of measures that accurately capture the intended information (measurement reliability and validity). The NRC's evaluations are conducted by qualified staff with relevant education, skills, and experience for the methods undertaken. The NRC's evaluations use appropriate designs and methods that adhere to widely accepted scientific principles to answer key questions while balancing goals, scale, timeline, feasibility, and available resources. Additionally, the NRC's Information Quality Program<sup>17</sup> ensures that all information relied on by the NRC is subject to rigorous quality standards.

2. **Relevance and Utility**—The NRC will ensure that evaluations are relevant and provide useful findings to inform agency activities and actions and stakeholders.

The NRC performs evaluations to examine questions of importance and serve the information needs of stakeholders. The NRC's evaluations present findings that are clear, concise, actionable, and available within a timeline that is appropriate to the questions under consideration. The NRC's evaluation priorities consider legislative requirements; the NRC's strategic safety and security goals, objectives, and strategies; and the interests and views of stakeholders.

<sup>17</sup> Management Directive 3.17, "Information Quality Program," ensures that peer review is conducted on all influential scientific information and highly influential scientific assessment that the agency intends to disseminate.

3. **Transparency**—The NRC is committed to conducting evaluations in an open and transparent manner, which keeps stakeholders informed of the agency's evaluation activities.

NRC activities will be conducted openly and the public must be informed about and have an opportunity to participate in the NRC's regulatory process. As a regulator, the NRC will listen to, respect, and analyze different views from stakeholders. The NRC will also ensure open channels of communication are maintained between the NRC and stakeholders, including Congress, other government agencies, licensees, nongovernmental organizations, individual members of the public, and international and domestic nuclear communities. The NRC takes reasonable efforts to make all information, including information about the NRC's evaluations (including their purpose, objectives, design, findings, and evaluation methods), broadly available and accessible. The NRC releases public evaluation findings in a timely manner and archives the evaluation data for secondary use by stakeholders, as appropriate.

4. **Collaboration**—The NRC is committed to working collaboratively when conducting evaluations and draws on the expertise of subject matter experts to ensure diversity in perspectives.

The NRC fosters a collaborative work environment that encourages diverse views, alternative approaches, critical thinking, creative problem solving, unbiased evaluations, and honest feedback. The NRC emphasizes trust, respect, and open communication to promote a positive work environment that maximizes the potential of all individuals, which improves evidence building and evaluation activities. A collaborative environment leverages expertise from subject matter experts and enables peer reviews to ensure rigorous evaluations. The NRC also conducts research and collaborates with organizations that develop consensus standards to improve data and methods used in risk analysis. The NRC collaborates with national laboratories, other Federal agencies, universities, and international organizations.

5. **Independence and Objectivity**—As an independent Federal agency, the NRC is committed to conducting evaluations that are independent and based on objective assessments of all relevant information.

The NRC was established as an independent agency to regulate civilian uses of radioactive material. The NRC's evaluations will be independent and objective to maintain credibility. The

implementation of evaluation activities, including the selection and function of the evaluators, should be appropriately insulated from factors that may affect their objectivity, impartiality, and professional judgment. Evaluations are inclusive and seek diverse participation from stakeholders in setting evaluation priorities, identifying evaluation questions, and assessing the implications of findings. The NRC strives for objectivity in the planning and conduct of evaluations.

6. **Ethics**—The NRC is committed to conducting evaluations that adhere to Government-wide ethics standards to protect the public and maintain public trust.

The NRC's evaluations comply with relevant legal requirements and are conducted in a manner that is free from conflicts of interest, undue influence, and the appearance of bias and that safeguards the dignity, rights, safety, and privacy of participants. The NRC complies with Governmentwide ethics standards contained in Federal statutes and regulations, which are intended to ensure that every citizen can have confidence in the integrity of the Federal Government.

#### **IV. Specific Request for Comments**

The NRC is interested in obtaining feedback from stakeholders on the proposed Evaluation Policy Statement. The focus of this request is to gather information that will permit the NRC staff to develop the final Evaluation Policy Statement. The NRC is particularly interested in comments that address the extent to which the proposed Evaluation Policy Statement will facilitate the agency's review of new and novel technologies and the agency's efforts to improve internal performance.

Dated: December 2, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Annette L. Vietti-Cook,**

*Secretary of the Commission.*

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#### **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[NRC-2020-0192]**

#### **Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance, Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Draft NUREG; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a draft report for comment, NUREG–1757, Volume 2, Revision 2, “Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance, Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria.” NUREG–1757 has been revised to address lessons learned and experience gained from review of license termination plans, decommissioning plans, and final status surveys for licensees undergoing license termination since the last revision to the document in September 2006. This NUREG is intended for use by applicants, licensees, and the NRC staff.

**DATES:** Submit comments by February 8, 2021. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal Rulemaking Website:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2020–0192. Address questions about Docket IDs in [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301–287–9127; email: [Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN–7–A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** 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](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). NUREG–1757, Volume 2, Revision 2, is located in ADAMS under Accession Number ML20273A010.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cynthia Barr, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–4015; email: [cynthia.barr@nrc.gov](mailto:cynthia.barr@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments**

*A. Obtaining Information*

Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2020–0192 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2020–0192.
- *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](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). NUREG–1757, Volume 2, Revision 2, is located at ADAMS Accession Number ML20273A010.

- *Attention:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents is currently closed. You may submit your request to the PDR via email at [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1–800–397–4209 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*B. Submitting Comments*

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal Rulemaking website (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID NRC–2020–0192 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment

submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

**II. Discussion**

The NRC is issuing for public comment, Revision 2 to NUREG–1757, Volume 2, “Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance, Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria.” NUREG–1757 has been revised to address lessons learned and experience gained from review of license termination plans, decommissioning plans, and final status surveys for licensees undergoing license termination. The NUREG has been updated to include new guidance related to dose modeling, as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) criteria, surface water and groundwater characterization, use of engineered barriers, and radiological surveys (e.g., composite sampling, subsurface surveys, and surveys demonstrating indistinguishability from background).

The NRC staff recognizes that the proposed revisions to NUREG–1757 are significant advancements. Licensee may choose to take advantage of these advancements immediately. However, this draft NUREG–1757 is being published for comment, and the NRC staff may make revisions and corrections in the final document. Such changes from draft guidance would not be a change in position because a draft guidance document issued for comment does not constitute a staff position.

This NUREG is intended for use by applicants, licensees, and the NRC staff. The purpose of this notice is to notify the public that NUREG–1757, Volume 2, Revision 2 is being issued as a draft report for comment.

Dated: December 2, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Patricia K. Holahan,**

*Director, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

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**PEACE CORPS**

**Information Collection Request; Submission for OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Peace Corps.

**ACTION:** 60-Day notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Peace Corps will be submitting the following information