

IAEA Webinar on Pandemic Response Related to Research Reactors

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Non-power Reactor Oversight Program: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- U.S. Non-power Reactor Oversight Program
 - Safety and Security Inspections
 - Operator Licensing Examinations
- Postponed Inspections/Examinations
- Inspection/Examination Restoration Strategy
 - Strategies/considerations
 - Mitigation Phases

COVID-19: Criteria for Restoration of Non-power Reactor Operator Licensing and Inspection Activities

Strategies/Considerations:

- Specific health and safety circumstances of individual inspectors/examiners and their families, and availability of other inspectors/examiners
- Inspections and examinations rescheduled based upon:
 - Identified need, facility schedule preferences, and oversight program goals
 - Oversight program goals:
 - Priority placed on the operator licensing
 - Inspections prioritized using risk considerations
- Additional inspector(s)/examiner(s) considered to allow 2 inspections or examinations per week at the same licensee or traveling to another licensee
- Travel considerations included: (1) location of NRC employee, (2) travel interconnections, and (3) location of facility
- Licensees with multiple examinations per year may be limited to 1 examination visit

COVID-19: Criteria for Restoration of Non-power Reactor Operator Licensing and Inspection Activities

Strategies/Considerations (cont.)

- Inspection/operator licensing activities dependent upon availability of PPE
- Inspectors/examiners follow NRC mandated practices, site-specific requirements, and state/local authority guidance for use of social distancing and PPE

NRC Mitigation Phase 0 (restricted domestic travel – mission critical only)

- All operator licensing examinations postponed/rescheduled
- All safety or security inspections postponed/rescheduled
- Remote response to events at site

NRC Mitigation Phase I (restricted domestic travel – mission critical only)

- Operator licensing examinations conducted for facilities that support mission critical functions with need to maintain staffing levels to support current or near-term operational needs
- Operator licensing examinations considered for facilities with a site-specific licensed operator need and state/local authorities lift stay-at-home orders in the local area of the facility

COVID-19: Criteria for Restoration of Non-power Reactor Operator Licensing and Inspection Activities

NRC Mitigation Phase I (cont.)

- Inspections considered based on safety and operational priorities of facilities, site-specific social distancing and PPE requirements, and state/local authorities lift stay-at-home orders in the local area of the facility
- On-site reactive inspection response to events with safe NRC employee travel and public health conditions

NRC Mitigation Phase II (increased domestic travel)

- Operator licensing examinations based on site-specific social distancing and PPE requirements
- Safety and security inspections based on site-specific social distancing and PPE requirements

NRC Mitigation Phase III (Resume domestic travel)

- Normal operator licensing examination activities
- Normal safety and security inspection activities