

SUPPORTING STATEMENT¹ FOR
INFORMATION COLLECTIONS CONTAINED IN
RISK-INFORMED, TECHNOLOGY-INCLUSIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR
ADVANCED REACTORS
FINAL RULE

10 CFR PART 50
DOMESTIC LICENSING OF PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION FACILITIES

(3150-0271)
NEW

Description of the Information Collection

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is establishing an optional technology-inclusive regulatory framework for use by applicants for new commercial nuclear plant designs. The regulatory requirements developed in this rulemaking use methods of evaluation, including risk-informed and performance-based methods, that are flexible and practicable for application to a variety of new reactor technologies. The NRC's goals in amending these regulations are to continue to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety and the common defense and security at sites at which new nuclear reactor designs are deployed to at least the same degree of protection as required for current-generation light-water reactors; protect health and minimize danger to life or property to at least the same degree of protection as required for current-generation light-water reactors; provide greater operational flexibilities where supported by enhanced margins of safety that may be provided in new nuclear designs; and promote regulatory stability, predictability, and clarity.

The final rule covers a wide range of topics, including the following that result in recordkeeping and reporting requirements:

- Fitness for duty,
- Physical security,
- Cybersecurity,
- Access authorization.
- Plant design and analysis,
- Siting,
- Construction and manufacturing,
- Facility operations,
- Programs,
- Staffing,
- Decommissioning,
- Content of applications,
- Licensing basis information, and
- Quality assurance.

This supporting statement describes how the final rule impacts the information collections in 10 CFR Part 50 (3150-0011). Section 53.865 of the final rule requires that operating license (OL) and combined license (COL) holders develop, implement, and maintain a quality assurance program in accordance with Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50. Additionally, the final rule amends Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 to make the requirements in this section applicable to applicants and licensees under Part 53. Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 establishes quality

assurance requirements for the design, fabrication, construction, and testing of structures, systems, and components.

This supporting statement includes burden associated with information collection changes to 10 CFR Part 50 (3150-0011). Due to the recent submission the Alternatives to the Use of Credit Ratings final rule under the Part 50 clearance number, the information collection changes to Part 50 associated with this final rule are being submitted as a new clearance.

Affected Entities

For the purposes of this supporting statement, the NRC staff estimates that there would be eight Part 53 applicants during the three-year period covered by this clearance (2027–2029). During this period, the NRC staff assumes that of these eight applicants, five would prepare and submit application materials for a construction permit (CP), two would prepare and submit application materials for a COL, and one would prepare and submit application materials for a standard design approval. Additionally, four of the CP applicants would later prepare and submit application materials for an OL, and one of the COL applicants would first prepare and submit application materials for an early site permit (ESP). Under the final rule, all Part 53 licensees are required to comply with the quality assurance requirements in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50. Additionally, the final rule amends Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 to make the requirements in this section applicable to applicants and licensees under Part 53.

Information Collections

Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 requires that each commercial nuclear plant subject to the criteria in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 implement the quality assurance program described or referenced in the Safety Analysis Report for the facility. Additionally, Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 requires that sufficient records be maintained to furnish evidence of activities affecting quality. Appropriate records of the design, fabrication, erection and testing of structures, systems and components important to safety shall be maintained by the licensee throughout the life of the plant, including:

- Management: QA plan, procedures, and instructions
- Qualification and training of personnel
- Design
- Procurement, items identification/control, acceptance status
- Special processes
- Manufacture, installation/testing
- Calibration
- Handling, storage and shipping
- Inspection, test, and operating status
- Non-conformance, corrective action
- Audits
- Modification, maintenance, and repair
- Operation

Burden to submit the Safety Analysis Report is included in the Part 53 clearance package (3150-0274) as part of the application burden. The current submission covers recordkeeping burden for maintaining QA records under Appendix B to Part 50.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Need for the Collection of Information

The information collection requirements contained in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 are necessary for the NRC to evaluate the compliance of applicants and licensees with quality assurance requirements.

2. Agency Use and Practical Utility of Information

Applicants or licensees requesting approval to construct or operate commercial nuclear plants are required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to provide information and data that the NRC may determine necessary to ensure the health and safety of the public.

The final rule requires licensees to maintain records related to quality assurance. The NRC will use this information to ensure applicants and licensees maintain quality assurance in the design, fabrication, erection and testing of structures, systems and components as commercial nuclear plants.

3. Reduction of Burden Through Information Technology

The NRC has issued [Guidance for Electronic Submissions to the NRC](#), which provides direction for the electronic transmission and submittal of documents to the NRC. Electronic transmission and submittal of documents can be accomplished via the following avenues: the Electronic Information Exchange process, which is available from the NRC's "Electronic Submittals" Web page, by Optical Storage Media (e.g. CD-ROM, DVD), by facsimile or by e-mail. It is estimated that approximately 90% of the responses will be filed electronically.

4. Effort to Identify Duplication and Use Similar Information

No sources of similar information are available. There is no duplication of requirements.

5. Effort to Reduce Small Business Burden

Not applicable.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection Is Not Conducted or Is Conducted Less Frequently

If the information is not collected, NRC will not be able to assess whether Part 53 applicants and licensees are operating within the specific safety requirements applicable to the licensing and operating activities for commercial nuclear plants.

The information and required frequency from licensees is essential to NRC's determination of whether the applicant has adequate quality assurance programs throughout the life of the licensee to protect the public health and safety.

7. Circumstances which Justify Variations from OMB Guidelines

The requirements in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 vary from OMB guidelines as they require the retention of records for more than 3 years. While there is no specific record retention requirement included in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.71(c) states that if a retention period for records required by the regulations in Part 50 is not otherwise specified, records must be retained until the Commission terminates the facility license or, in the case of an ESP, until the permit expires. Quality assurance records related to the design, fabrication, erection and testing of structures, systems and components important to safety must be retained for the life of the plant in order to support the review and confirmation of safety-related activities, and to ensure the NRC's ability to protect the health and safety of the public.

8. Consultations Outside the NRC

The NRC published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* for public comment on October 31, 2024 (89 FR 86918), as well as a draft OMB Supporting Statement for Part 50.

On November 19, 20, and 21, 2024, the NRC held a multi-day public meeting on the proposed rule. During this meeting, the NRC staff provided an overview of the proposed rule, addressed stakeholder questions, and communicated the methods available to submit public comments. The staff held a second public meeting on the proposed rule in early January 2025 with a focus on the topic of testing fueled manufactured reactors in the manufacturing facility and other technical topics of interest raised by stakeholders. In addition, the NRC staff hosted 24 public meetings with external stakeholders and participated in 16 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards meetings on the draft proposed rule development before the rule was published for public comment.

The NRC prepared a summary and analysis of public comments received on the proposed rule and draft RGs, which totals two volumes (ML26042A229, ML26042A228). The public comment submissions are available from the Federal e-Rulemaking website at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2019-0062.

The information collection requirements included in this supporting statement for the final rule did not change from the proposed rule supporting statement as a result of the response to public comments.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality of Information

Confidential and proprietary information is protected in accordance with NRC regulations at 10 CFR 9.17(a) and 10 CFR 2.390(b).

Trade secrets, privileged, or confidential commercial or financial information is marked as proprietary information and is protected in accordance with NRC regulations in 10 CFR 9.17(a) and 10 CFR 2.390(b).

Certain information, designated as SGI, is prohibited from public disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 147, or is designated as classified National Security Information, in accordance with Executive Order 12958, "Classified National Security Information," dated April 17, 1995.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

No sensitive information is requested.

12. Estimated Burden and Burden Hour Cost

The NRC staff estimates that there would be eight applicants during the 3-year period covered by this clearance (2027–2029).

The overall estimated annual burden increase is 35,066.4 hours at an estimated annual cost increase of \$5,400,226 (35,066.4 hrs x \$154/hr).

Title	Total Burden Summary		
	Responses	Hours	Cost
Annual Recordkeeping	8	35,066.4	\$5,400,226
TOTAL	8	35,066.4	\$5,400,226

The NRC's average labor rate of \$154 per hour for FY 2026 was used to calculate burden costs to the public because it aligns with 2024 Bureau of Labor Statistics data showing comparable hourly mean wages across five key occupational groups (executives, management, technical staff, licensing staff, and physicists) within the nuclear industry.

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

The quantity of records to be maintained is roughly proportional to the recordkeeping burden and therefore can be used to calculate approximate records storage costs. Based on the number of pages maintained for a typical clearance, the records storage cost has been determined to be equal to \$0.12 per recordkeeping burden hour. Therefore, the storage cost for this clearance is estimated to be \$4,208 (35,066.4 recordkeeping hours x \$0.12 per hour).

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

As the only information collection requirements contained in this supporting statement are recordkeeping requirements for applicants and licensees under Part 53, there will be no cost to the Federal government.

15. Reasons for Changes in Burden or Cost

The estimated incremental burden increase from the final rule is 35,066.4 hours as a result of the recordkeeping requirements that Part 53 applicants and licensees would need to fulfill to comply with Part 50 during the period covered by this clearance (2027–2029).

16. Publication for Statistical Use

The information being collected is not expected to be published for statistical use.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the Expiration Date

The recordkeeping requirements for this information collection are associated with regulations and are not submitted on instruments such as forms or surveys. For this reason, there are no data instruments on which to display an OMB expiration date. Further, amending the regulatory text of the CFR to display information that, in an annual publication, could become obsolete would be unduly burdensome and too difficult to keep current.

18. Exceptions to the Certification Statement

None.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

Not applicable