

during extended periods of shutdown for refueling, major maintenance or major plant modifications; and (3) The addition of a phrase exempting extended shutdown periods from the requirements to consider use of overtime only on an individual basis.

Policy on Factors Causing Fatigue of Operating Personnel at Nuclear Reactors

Licensees of operating plants and applicants for operating licenses shall establish controls to prevent situations where fatigue could reduce the ability of operating personnel to keep the reactor in a safe condition. The controls should focus on shift staffing and the use of overtime—key job-related factors that influence fatigue.

The objective of the controls would be to assure that, to the extent practicable, personnel are not assigned to shift duties while in a fatigued condition that could significantly reduce their mental alertness or their decision making capability. The controls shall apply to the plant staff who perform safety-related functions (e.g., senior reactor operators, reactor operators, health physicists, auxiliary operators, and key maintenance personnel).

Enough plant operating personnel should be employed to maintain adequate shift coverage without routine heavy use of overtime. The objective is to have operating personnel work a normal 8-hour day, 40-hour week while the plant is operating. However, in the event that unforeseen problems require substantial amounts of overtime to be used, or during extended periods of shutdown for refueling, major maintenance or major plant modifications, on a temporary basis, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- a. An individual should not be permitted to work more than 16 hours straight (excluding shift turnover time).
- b. An individual should not be permitted to work more than 16 hours in any 24-hour period, nor more than 24 hours in any 48-hour period nor more than 72 hours in any seven day period (all excluding shift turnover time).
- c. A break of at least eight hours should be allowed between work periods (including shift turnover time).
- d. Except during extended shutdown periods, the use of overtime should be considered on an individual basis and not for the entire staff on a shift.

Recognizing that very unusual circumstances may arise requiring deviation from the above guidelines, such deviation shall be authorized by the plant manager or his deputy, or higher levels of management. The

paramount consideration in such authorization shall be that significant reductions in the effectiveness of operating personnel would be highly unlikely.

In addition, procedures are encouraged that would allow licensed operators at the controls to be periodically relieved and assigned to other duties away from the control board during their tour of duty.

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 25th day of May, 1982.

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Nuclear Power Plant Staff Working Hours

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Publication of revised policy regarding nuclear power plant staff working hours

SUMMARY: On February 11, 1982, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a "Policy on Factors Causing Fatigue of Operating Personnel at Nuclear Reactors," 47 FR 7352.

Comments received since publication have revealed questions concerning the policy statement. Accordingly, the policy statement has been revised and the revised version is reproduced below. Changes include: (1) The addition of a sentence which explicitly states that the objective of the working hour policy is to have operating personnel work an 8-hour day, 40-hour week; (2) The addition of a phrase to indicate that the stated working hour restrictions are applicable