

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

Petition for Rulemaking to be Considered in the Rulemaking Process

On March 12, 2012, the Executive Director for Operations is expected to sign a notice stating that the NRC will consider the petition for rulemaking (PRM) submitted by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., in the rulemaking process. The petitioner asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to institute the rulemaking described in Section 4.2.1 of the "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)(Accession No. ML111861807). This rulemaking would apply to nuclear facilities licensed under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," and 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," as well as to other applicable regulations. The PRM would revise 10 CFR 50.63, "Loss of Alternating Current Power," to require each operating and new reactor licensee to (1) establish a minimum coping time of 8 hours for a loss of all alternating current (ac) power; (2) establish the equipment, procedures, and training necessary to implement an "extended loss of all ac" coping time of 72 hours for core and spent fuel cooling and for reactor coolant system and primary containment integrity, as needed; and (3) preplan and prestage offsite resources to support uninterrupted core and spent fuel pool cooling, as well as reactor coolant system and containment integrity, as needed. This includes the ability to deliver the equipment to the site in the time period allowed for extending coping, under conditions involving the significant degradation of offsite transportation infrastructure associated with significant natural disasters.

The NRC will consider this petition in the ongoing "Station Blackout" rulemaking (RIN 3150-AJ08; NRC-2011-0299). The package closing the petition is in ADAMS under Accession No. ML120050195.