

**BACKGROUND**

The NRC staff developed a charter dated April 26, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML19115A016](#)) for building a smarter fuel cycle licensing program. It directed the Working Group (WG) to seek and evaluate input from NRC staff and stakeholders (e.g., industry, Nuclear Energy Institute). On April 30, 2020, the NRC staff issued recommendations for addressing the feedback from both internal and external stakeholders (ADAMS Accession No. [ML20099F354](#)). The suggestions ranged from simple procedure changes, such as more frequent communication with applicants to more resource intensive projects such as development of standard review plans (e.g., update NUREG-1520).

Division management endorsed the implementation of the recommendations and directed the staff to develop an action plan (AP), first published July 10, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML20184A267](#)). The AP grouped the implementation of the recommendations into three general categories: Near-term actions anticipated to be completed by Fall-2021, Mid-term actions anticipated to be completed by Early-2022, and Long-term actions with completion dates beyond 2022, (note: completion dates have been updated).

The smarter licensing team is working to incorporate the Near-term recommendations into division instructions (DIs) which will provide guidance on the procedures for Division of Fuel Management licensing activities. The DIs are entitled:

- LIC-FM-1, "Licensing Overview,"
- LIC-FM-2, "Acceptance Review Process,"
- LIC-FM-3, "Requests for Additional Information," and
- LIC-FM-4, "Safety Evaluation Reports."

Work on the Mid-Term recommendations to develop job-aids, templates, and training have started and will progress further as the NRC staff transition from DI development to implementation. Some of the Long-term recommendations are under development (e.g., guidance for management turnover and a standard review plan for licensing greater than critical mass facilities) and will progress further as resources and priorities allow.

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide a status update on the staff's ongoing efforts to revise and implement approved smarter licensing recommendations, which consist of Near-, Mid-, and Long-term recommendations.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Provided status update at the fuel facilities stakeholder meeting, 03/24-25/2021, see [ML21120A058](#).
2. Provided status update at the fuel facilities stakeholder meeting, June 16, 2021, see [ML21200A120](#).
3. Incorporating Near- and Mid-term recommendations into the DIs (LIC-FM-1, -2, -3, and -4).
4. Implementing recommendations as summarized in the table below.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. Finalize the DIs by Fall 2021.
2. Develop job-aids and conduct training on the recommendations in the finalized DIs by early 2022.
3. Review DIs to identify portions that can be made public in early 2022.
4. Proceed with implementation of the Mid- and Long-Term recommendations

**Points of Contact:**

Matthew Bartlett, Smarter Licensing Project Manager, NMSS/DFM/FFLB, 301-415-7154  
Jacob Zimmerman, Branch Chief, NMSS/DFM/FFLB, 301-415-1220

## Timeline for Implementing the Smarter Licensing Recommendations as if July 2021

Completed					In Process					Projected				
Recommendation		Task		Status	Finish Date		Recommendation		Task		Status	Finish Date		
NT-0	32	Develop Division Instructions (DI)		Ongoing	Fall 2021		MT-1	15	LIC-FM-1, job-aids, & training		Ongoing	Early 2022		
	19	Training on DIs		Future	Early 2022			18	LIC-FM-1, job-aids, & training		Ongoing	Early 2022		
	16	Make DIs Public		Future	Mid 2022			21	LIC-FM-1 & 4, job-aids, & training		Ongoing	Early 2022		
NT-1	1	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021			25 (P1)	LIC-FM-1, job-aids, & training		Ongoing	Early 2022		
	2	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021			27 (P2)	LIC-FM-1, job-aids, & training		Ongoing	Early 2022		
	3	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021			30	Creat a roadmap for licensing actions and templates		Future	Early 2022		
	6	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021			31	Expand the risk tool		Future	Early 2023		
	29 (P1)	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021		LT-1	13 (P2)	IG working group updates		Ongoing	To Be Determined		
	29 (P2)	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021		LT-2	14	LIC-FM-1, job-aids, & training		Ongoing	To Be Determined		
NT-2	4	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021		23	Update NUREG-1520		Future	To Be Determined			
	7 (P2)	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021		LT-3	20	Develop SRP		Ongoing	To Be Determined		
	27 (P1)	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021		24	Develop roadmap for templates		Future	To Be Determined			
NT-3	5	DI, LIC-FM-1, 2, & 3		Ongoing	Fall 2021		25 (P2)	Make roadmap easily accessible to staff		Future	To Be Determined			
	10 (P2)	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 3		Ongoing	Fall 2021		LT-4	26	Guidance for new types of facilities		Future	To Be Determined		
	17	DI, LIC-FM-1		Ongoing	Fall 2021		Division Instruction (DI), Standard Review Plan (SRP), Inspector General (IG), Near-Term (NT), Mid-Term (MT), Long-Term (LT) LIC-FM-1: "Overview of the Licensing and Certification Process of NRC-Regulated Activitie" LIC-FM-2: "Acceptance Review Process" LIC-FM-3: "Request for Additional Information" LIC-FM-4: "Safety Evaluation Report"							
	28	DI, LIC-FM-1 & 2		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
NT-4	7 (P1)	DI, LIC-FM-1, 2, & 3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
	8	DI, LIC-FM-3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
	9	DI, LIC-FM-2 & 3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
	10 (P1)	DI, LIC-FM-3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
	11	DI, LIC-FM-3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
	12	DI, LIC-FM-1 and LIC-FM-3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
	13 (P1)	DI, LIC-FM-1 and LIC-FM-3		Ongoing	Fall 2021									
22	DI, LIC-FM-3		Ongoing	Fall 2021										