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administrative controls and quality assurance for the operational phase of nuclear power plants

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Administrative Controls and Quality
Assurance for the Operational
Phase of Nuclear Power Plants

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Administrative Controls and Quality Assurance for the Operational Phase of Nuclear Power Plants, ANSI/ANS-3.2-1994.)

Preparation of the first edition of this standard commenced in 1969, prior to the establishment of formal quality assurance requirements for the operation of nuclear power plants. Historically, the administrative controls section of Facility Operating License Technical Specifications had contained provisions for meeting many of the requirements that subsequently became identified with quality assurance for operation. It was the original intent of the standard to define administrative controls for this purpose. The subcommittee that developed the initial version of this standard had a membership whose experience was primarily in power reactor operation, and developed a document that would provide guidance for administrative controls over activities associated with the operation of nuclear power plants. At the same time, American Society of Mechanical Engineers Subcommittee N45.2, "Nuclear Quality Assurance Standards," was developing quality assurance standards related to design, construction, maintenance, and modification of nuclear power plant structures, systems, and components.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued its Safety Guide 33 (now Regulatory Guide 1.33), "Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Operation)," endorsing Draft 8 of ANS-3.2 (which later became ANSI N18.7-1972) and American National Standard Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants, ANSI/ASME N45.2-1971. Because of this dual endorsement, the two committees attempted to develop a single standard. The result of that effort was ANSI N18.7-1976 (ANS-3.2), which was subsequently endorsed by NRC Regulatory Guide 1.33, Revision 2 (February 1978).

Following the Three Mile Island Unit 2 accident in 1979, Subcommittee ANS-3 undertook a revision of N18.7-1976 to incorporate the administrative "lessons learned" into the standard, which was subsequently published as ANSI/ANS-3.2-1982. This revision also reflected the issuance of American National Standard Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Nuclear Power Plants, ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1979, which superseded several of the N45.2 standards which had previously been incorporated by reference into N18.7-1976.

Since ANSI/ANS-3.2-1982 was published, the industry moved progressively closer to an all-operating-reactor environment. The 1988 version of this standard recognized this fact and incorporated many changes to emphasize operational aspects and performance-based quality assurance techniques. This, the 1994 version, continues the strong emphasis on this approach. It is the intent that this version will continue to receive industry acceptance and be endorsed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

A major effort is underway within the nuclear industry to redefine the approach to quality assurance. The industry is proposing changes to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of implementing 10 CFR 50 Appendix B in nuclear plant operations, maintenance, and supporting activities. Working Group ANS-3.2 will work with these industry groups in developing the next revision of this standard.

This standard is also consistent with the Advanced Light Water Reactor Utility Requirements Document and can be used by applicants for new plants to describe their QA and Administrative Control programs.

This revision is based on the philosophy that the assurance of quality is the responsibility of the individual performing the task and is not the sole responsibility of the formally established Quality Assurance organization.

Quality verification organizations in this standard act in a measurement and advisory function, monitoring the overall performance of the plant; identifying substandard or anomalous performance, or precursors of potential problems; reporting findings in an understandable form in a timely fashion to a level of line management having the authority

to effect corrective action; and promptly verifying the effectiveness of the corrective action and reporting those verification results back to line management. An effective quality verification organization is technically and performance oriented; it focuses its efforts toward end products as opposed to being concerned only with processes and procedures. The organization should have technical resources available to it, and it should be aggressive in searching for, identifying, and following up on problems.

In addition to describing administrative controls and quality assurance requirements for the operational phase of nuclear power plants, this standard provides suggestions, where appropriate, that should improve the reliability and performance of operating nuclear power plants. The application of this standard to balance-of-plant equipment and activities can be beneficial in enhancing plant reliability and plant safety.

This standard discusses requirements for preoperational tests, while recognizing that these tests fall outside the strict definition of the operational phase. This guidance was included because of the frequent heavy involvement of the operations staff in conducting the preoperational tests, and as a response to requirements to implement the operational quality assurance program prior to the start of the operational phase.

On page iv of the Foreword is a chart showing the comparison of 10 CFR 50 Appendix B criteria with the corresponding sections of this standard.

This revised standard was prepared by Subcommittee ANS-3, Reactor Operations and Support Activities, of the American Nuclear Society Standards Committee. At the time of the revision, the membership of Working Group ANS-3.2 was:

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In addition, the chairman acknowledges the assistance of S. C. Oldham and R. R. Toole (Carolina Power & Light Company) in the completion of this standard.

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Comparison Chart of 10 CFR 50 Appendix B and ANSI/ANS-3.2-1994 Requirements

10 CFR 50 Appendix B Criterion	ANSI/ANS-3.2-1994 Sections	Comments
I	1, 3.1, 3.3	
II	3.1, 3.3, 3.4.2, 3.5, 4.4.3.2, 5.1, 5.3	Refs.: for 3.4.2, ANSI/ANS-3.1-1993, ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994; for 3.5, ANSI/ANS-3.1-1993; for 4.4.3.2, ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
III	5.2.9, 5.2.10	Refs.: for 5.2.9, ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
IV	5.2.16	Refs. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
V	5.2.9, 5.3	Refs.: for 5.2.9, ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994, ANSI/ASTM D3843-80
VI	5.2.18	·
VII	5.2.16.2	
VIII	5.2.16.3	
IX	5.2.21	
X	5.2.20	
XI	5.2.22	
XII	5.2.19	Refs. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
XIII	5.2.16.4	Refs. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
XIV	5.2.6, 5.2.17	Refs.: for 5.2.17, ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
XV	5.2.17	Refs. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
XVI	5.2.14	
XVII	5.2.15	Refs. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994
XVIII	4.4.3	Refs. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1994

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