

FINAL SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR NRC FORM 176
"SECURITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND TERMINATION STATEMENT"

(3150-0239)

Extension

Description of the Information Collection

The reporting requirements associated with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Form 176, "Security Acknowledgement and Termination Statement," affect the NRC employees, licensees, and contractors who have been granted an NRC access authorization (security clearance). When an applicant requires an NRC access authorization, he/she shall sign the NRC Form 176 prior to access to Restricted Data, Controlled Unclassified Information, and/or Special Nuclear Materials. When the NRC access authorization is no longer required, the employee or contractor acknowledges and accepts his/her continuing security responsibilities, as stated on the NRC Form 176, by signing the form.

The NRC Form 176 requires a minimum amount of personal information (e.g., name, date of termination, last four digits of social security number, and name the person providing the briefing). The form is countersigned by an Office of Administration, Division of Facilities and Security (DFS) employee, or representative of the licensee or contractor who administered the completion of the form by the employee, licensee, or contractor.

There is no recordkeeping requirement for the NRC employee, licensee, or contractor since the completed NRC Form 176 is to be forwarded to NRC headquarters, DFS for retention in the individual's Personnel Security File (PSF). The established retention period of the PSF is destroyed upon notification of death or 5 years after termination of the last access authorization held.

The use of this form affords some assurance that access to classified information, Restricted Data (as defined by Section 11.y. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. § 2014)), Controlled Unclassified Information (as defined by 32 C.F.R. Part 2002 Controlled Unclassified Information), and special nuclear material, as well as the knowledge gained by the respondent will be properly protected, and therefore, benefits the NRC security program and public at large.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Need for and Practical Utility of the Information Collection

Section 4.3 of Executive Order (E.O.) 12958 requires agencies to establish controls over the distribution of classified information to assure that it is distributed only to organizations or individuals eligible for access who also have a need-to-know the information. When an applicant requires an NRC access authorization, he/she shall sign the NRC Form 176 prior to access to Restricted Data, Controlled Unclassified Information, and/or Special Nuclear

Materials. When an individual with access to classified information, Restricted Data, Controlled Unclassified Information and/or special nuclear material is no longer employed in a position requiring access to such information/material, the NRC will terminate the individual's access authorization in accordance with 10 CFR 25.33 (applicable to licensees) or in accordance with 10 CFR Part 10 and NRC Management Directive (MD) 12.3, "NRC Personnel Security Program" (applicable to NRC employees and contractors). The NRC Form 176 is an integral part of reminding individuals of their continuing responsibilities after termination of service.

2. Agency Use of Information

As stated in MD 12.3 (for employees and contractors) and in 10 CFR 25.33 (for licensees), the completed NRC Form 176 is to be forwarded by the employee/licensee/contractor to NRC headquarters for use by DFS in connection with the security acknowledgment and termination of the respondent's employment with the NRC. In addition to providing assurance of NRC compliance with E.O. 12958, the NRC Form 176 is the vehicle used by DFS to apprise the individual of his/her continuing responsibilities for protecting classified information, Restricted Data, and Controlled Unclassified Information that he/she had access to, in the course of performing official duties. The individual's signature on this form indicates their acknowledgment/acceptance of these continuing responsibilities.

Failure to use the NRC Form 176 by the licensee/contractor may result in: (1) failure to properly investigate an applicant for the appropriate access authorization; (2) failure to terminate the NRC access authorization when circumstances dictate and, therefore, unnecessary continued access to classified information, Restricted Data, and/or Controlled Unclassified Information; and (3) the individual not being apprised of, or officially acknowledging (by signature) his/her continuing responsibilities for protecting classified information, Restricted Data, and/or Controlled Unclassified Information.

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 (EIE) process, which is available from the NRC's "Electronic Submittals" Web page, by facsimile or by e-mail. It is estimated that approximately less than 30% of the responses are 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

The burden associated with this form is minimal. There is no significant burden on a contractor that is a small business enterprise or entity.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection is not Conducted or is Conducted Less Frequently

The frequency of information collection is limited to circumstances when the respondent's NRC service is to be investigated for access authorization and approved access authorization needs to be terminated. In most cases, an individual will need to sign the NRC Form 176 twice. If the information is not collected, the assurance that only appropriately cleared individuals have access to classified information is reduced. Furthermore, it is likely that individuals will be unaware of their continued responsibility to protect classified information. Thus, less frequent collection may endanger the United States common defense and national security.

7. Circumstances Which Justify Variation from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines

There is no variation from OMB Guidelines in the collection of information.

8. Consultations outside the NRC

Opportunity for public comment on the information collection requirements for this clearance package was published in the *Federal Register* on April 6, 2022 (87 FR 19982). The respondents that were contacted include, two licensees and two individuals that work in the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They were contacted as part of the consultation process and the method used to contact them was by courtesy call and email. One individual provided a response as "yes, no and no suggestions" to the consultations. All other individuals from the public did not respond and no public comments were received.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not Applicable.

10. Confidentiality of the Information

Confidential and proprietary information is protected in accordance with NRC regulations at 10 CFR 9.17(a) and 10 CFR 2.390(b). However, no information normally considered confidential or proprietary is requested.

Personal Information provided on the NRC Form 176 is handled and protected in accordance with NRC directives and provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as described in the Privacy Act Statement on the form. Information is maintained in a system of records designated as NRC-39 and

described in the Federal Register in NRC's "Personnel Security Files and Associated Records" on December 27, 2019, (84 FR 71568).

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There is no sensitive information requested on the NRC Form 176.

12. Estimated Burden and Burden Hour Cost

The \$288 hourly rate used in the burden estimates is based on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's fee for hourly rates as noted in 10 CFR 170.20 "Average cost per professional staff-hour." For more information on the basis of this rate, see the Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for Fiscal Year 2018 (83 FR 29622, June 25, 2018).

An estimated 12 minutes (based on staff experience) is required to complete each NRC Form 176. The NRC staff estimates that 400 responses will be received annually, resulting in a total of annual burden to the public of 80 hours (400 responses x 12 minutes / 60). The estimated annual cost is \$23,040 (80 hours x \$288 per hour).

NOTE: There is no record keeping requirement for contractors/licensees to maintain a copy of the NRC Form 176.

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

There are no additional costs.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The staff has developed estimates of cost to the Federal Government related to the conduct of this information collection. These estimates are based on staff experiences and subject matter expertise and include the burden needed to review, analyze, and process the collected information and any relevant operational expenses.

The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government associated with the NRC Form 176 is \$23,040. The cost was computed as follows:

Total effort 400 forms X 12 minutes = 4800/60 = 80 hrs. X \$288/hr.) =
\$23,040.00

Annual record holding
(1/4 cubic (cu) foot (ft.) X \$212/cu. ft.) = \$ 53.00

Total estimated annual cost to Federal government = \$23,040

This cost is fully recovered through fee assessment to NRC licensees pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 170 and/or 171.

15. Reasons for Changes in Burden or Cost

The NRC Form 176, "Security Acknowledgment and Termination Statement" has now added the "Typed or Printed Employee Name" section to the NRC Form 176C page. This page is used when departing people are debriefed. NRC modified the form to include a print name field in addition to the signature field for clarity. There is no change in the burden required to complete the form. The cost has increased due to a change in the fee rate from \$275/hr. to \$288/hr.

16. Publications for Statistical Use

There is no application of statistics in the information collections related to NRC Form 176 and no publication of the information.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the
Expiration Date

The expiration date is displayed on the form.

18. Exceptions to the
Certification Statement

Not Applicable.