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NRC Form 396, Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee

Comment On: NRC-2025-0011-0001

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Submitter Information

Name: Laura Boyce

Address:

Seneca, SC, 29678

Email: Laura.Boyce@Duke-Energy.com

Phone: 864-873-6774

General Comment

The proposed information is not necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions. The Licensed Operator Requalification Program Inspection biennially reviews the maintenance of operator licenses, including a review of licensed operator performance during requalification exams and operator license restrictions. The ANSI/ANS 3.4 and 15.4 standards clearly define medical restrictions.

Implementing any of the following would minimize burden:

- Reviewing medical restrictions coincident with the 71111.11 inspection versus submitting individual medical status changes on a NRC Form 396.
- If a medical restriction already exists, there is no need to submit a NRC Form 396 with modified information. For example, if a licensed operator already has a restriction of shall take medication as prescribed for blood pressure and is adding a new medication for shall take medication as prescribed for another condition, a NRC Form 396 submittal should not be required as the license restriction already exists.
- Eliminating signatures on the NRC Form 396. The utility could streamline reviews per internal processes and utilize electronic reviews versus (in some cases) hard copy circulation for signatures.
- Eliminating information only submittals. If these truly are for informational purposes, they are not necessary for the NRC to perform its function.
- Changing the reporting frequency of required medical updates. Utility processes require controls for medical status changes. These changes are auditable at any time by the NRC/NRC residents. Reducing the frequency of required submittals reduces the administrative burden associated with NRC submittals.

Regarding quality/clarity:

- Box 10 instructions need additional clarity. Is the intent of this Box to indicate a different restriction (e.g. a licensed operator now requires restriction of solo operation is not authorized where previously they did not) or is the intent of this Box to indicate a change in restriction (e.g. a licensed operator used to require a restriction of shall take medication as prescribed for Condition A and now requires a restriction

of shall take medication as prescribed for Condition B (two different medical conditions) or e.g. a licensed operator requires a restriction of shall take medication as prescribed for Condition A and takes Medication A. The licensed operator now requires a restriction of shall take medication as prescribed for Condition A and takes Medication B (same medical condition, different medication)).

- Recommend combining “Proposed Wording of Restriction” and “Relationship of Restriction to Disqualifying Condition” Boxes as these two boxes are only used when Box 9 is checked.
- Recommend moving “Explanations” Box above “Proposed Wording of Restriction” and “Relationship of Restriction to Disqualifying Condition” Boxes. Explanations Box is used much more frequently
- Clarify intent of Box 12. Supporting information (Medical Evidence) is provided for restriction changes. Instructions indicate this is for new applicants.