



# Nuclear Power Plant Simulators for Use in Operator Training and Examination

An American National Standard

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**American National Standard  
Nuclear Power Plant Simulators  
for Use in Operator Training  
and Examination**

Secretariat  
**American Nuclear Society**

Prepared by the  
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**Foreword** (This foreword is not a part of the American National Standard “Nuclear Power Plant Simulators for Use in Operator Training and Examination,” ANSI/ANS-3.5-2018, but is included for informational purposes.)

The nuclear power industry is currently in a mature phase of operation with encouraging successes in operating license extensions and extended power uprates. In addition to life extension activity, new construction of nuclear power plants is in progress. This sixth revision of the 1979 original standard continues in the philosophy of further addressing issues related to maintaining simulators throughout the life of commercial nuclear power plants. This revision of the standard extends the functional requirements and criteria of this standard to new-build reactors.

The first ANS-3.5 standard, published in January 1979, provided essential requirements for the acquisition of full-scope simulators to support operator training programs. The second ANS-3.5 standard, published in April 1981, further delineated specification requirements. Improvements in testing methods and overall consistency were subsequently included in the third ANS-3.5 standard, published in October 1985. The fourth ANS-3.5 standard, published in March 1993, introduced a new testing methodology and processes that effectively integrated training processes with simulator testing and configuration management processes. The fifth ANS-3.5 standard, published in April 1998, further refined the integration of the training scenario validation process with the simulator testing process; this integration effort introduced simulator scenario-based testing. The sixth ANS-3.5 standard, published in September 2009, clarified the functional and testing requirements associated with simulator scenario-based testing; in addition, this version of the standard introduced post-event simulator testing and reactor core performance testing, the latter of which provides assurance that applicants for an operator license may meet reactivity experience requirements on a reference unit simulator.

Many nuclear power plants have realized routine steady-state operation throughout the fuel cycle as operational performance improves; while this level of maturity is excellent, it provides fewer of the operational experience opportunities previously afforded to licensed operators. Excellent plant performance demands a more vital role for the simulator in providing operators with experience previously obtained in the actual plant. The importance of a thoroughly tested simulator as a high-quality training device cannot be overemphasized.

The development of this standard, ANSI/ANS-3.5-2018, was possible through the cooperation of nuclear professionals from the domestic and international communities. Anticipating a larger user base of the ANS-3.5 standard with the construction of new-build commercial nuclear power plants, assistance from nuclear professionals associated with new-build nuclear power plant simulators was obtained. The working group acknowledges the use of this standard by international users and owners of nuclear power plant simulators that may be subject to international nuclear regulatory authorities; the degree of application of this standard to their respective nuclear power plant simulators is the responsibility of international authorities.

The Sec. 3.1.4 malfunction list and Appendix B of the ANS-3.5-2009 standard are removed from this standard. To address new-build commercial nuclear power plants and the applicability of this standard to new-build simulators, the working group considered several different design certifications already submitted and expected to be submitted for regulatory approval during the development of this standard. Priority was afforded to those designs actually under construction in the United States with near-term issuance of commercial operating licenses (5-year look ahead). It became apparent to the working group that various malfunctions listed in Sec. 3.1.4 and various transients in Appendix B of the ANS-3.5-2009 standard were not applicable to new-build commercial nuclear power plant design. The

working group considered including multiple malfunction and transient lists based on reactor design and determined such effort unwieldy to include in the standard; efforts were therefore focused to identify generic guidance that could be applied regardless of reactor type and reactor design. The working group realized the value, to existing and new nuclear power plant simulator owners, of utilizing a proven systematic approach to the training process to identify and include appropriate malfunctions to simulator design and to consider the design bases for transients unique to each plant design.

The working group diligently considered events such as the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident and uses of the simulator for both extended-duration scenarios and emergency preparedness drills/exercises for inclusion in the scope of this standard. The working group ultimately determined that these types of simulator applications are not within scope of this standard; however, the standard does not preclude the use of simulators for activities other than operator training and examination. The use of this standard in whole or in part to help define, develop, and test simulator facilities for activities beyond the current scope is encouraged.

When a simulator is used for operator training and examination, it is expected to meet the requirements set forth in this standard. The user is responsible for compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

#### Acknowledgements:

This review and revision cycle was fortunate to receive substantial support from a diverse and dedicated group of nuclear simulator-experienced professionals representing many utilities and interested parties. A wide range of representation from utilities, independent contributors, industry oversight organizations, and simulator suppliers, including individuals with significant military and commercial reactor experience, contributed to the efforts of the ANS-3.5-2018 Working Group. Input to the development of the standard was received through various means, including feedback from training and simulator associations. Working group meetings were also attended and supported regularly by nonmember participants. All aspects of power reactor and simulator design, construction, and operation, in addition to extensive operator training and evaluation experience, were available throughout this review cycle. Representation at working group meetings was diverse, with approximately 675 collective years of experience in the nuclear industry, including 479 years of simulation-related experience and 249 years of operator training experience. Working group continuity was preserved by members with a range of 1 to 29 years of working group participation experience. The significant experience available and dedicated participation of each member were used effectively to prioritize and address each important issue.

This standard might reference documents and other standards that have been superseded or withdrawn at the time the standard is applied. A statement has been included in the references section that provides guidance on the use of references.

This standard does not incorporate the concepts of generating risk-informed insights, performance-based requirements, or a graded approach to quality assurance. The user is advised that one or more of these techniques could enhance the application of this standard.

In memoriam, the working group would like to recognize the special contributions of Mr. Robert "Bob" A. Felker, Western Services Corporation, who passed away on December 15, 2017. He participated in the development of the 1993, 1998, 2009, and this latest edition of the ANS-3.5 standard. This standard is dedicated to Bob and his lifelong contribution to the nuclear power and simulation industries.

This standard was prepared by the ANS-3.5 Working Group of the American Nuclear Society. The following members contributed to this standard:

J. B. Florence (Chair), *Nebraska Public Power District, Cooper*  
R. A. Felker (Vice Chair), *Western Services Corporation*  
K. P. Welchel (Secretary), *Duke Energy, Oconee*  
F. J. Colby (Editor), *L-3 Communications MAPPs, Inc.*  
S. K. Chang (Style Editor), *Dominion, Millstone*  
L. Vick (Parliamentarian), *U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*

T. D. Buchanan, *U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*  
W. A. Fraser, *Westinghouse Electric Co.*  
R. E. Goldman, *Entergy, Grand Gulf*  
D. P. Goodman, *Luminant, Comanche Peak*  
J. D. Koutouzis, *Institute of Nuclear Power Operations*  
J. Lawter, *Dominion, V. C. Summer*  
G. S. McCullough, *GSE Systems, Inc.*  
D. D. McDade, *Progress Energy, Harris Nuclear Plant*  
M. M. Petersen, *Xcel Energy, Prairie Island/Monticello*  
P. A. Rey, *Tecnatom, Spain*  
J. C. Sale, *Dominion, North Anna*  
F. A. Tarselli, *Silver Fox Synergies, LLC*

Certain highly technically qualified individuals provided additional expert assistance and advice to the working group during the development of this standard. They were as follows:

C. Brooks, *Institute of Nuclear Power Operations*  
J. Cross, *Westinghouse Electric Co.*  
S. Cupp, *Entergy, Arkansas Nuclear One*  
G. Degraw, *Entergy, River Bend*  
T. Dennis, *Individual*  
V. Gagnon, *L-3 Communications MAPPs, Inc.*  
W. Hendricsen, *Arizona Public Service Co., Palo Verde*  
B. Holl, *KSG Kraftwerks, Germany*  
R. Jones, *Entergy*  
J. C. Kellum, *U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*  
M. Mirshah, *Western Services Corporation*

The following individuals and organizations are recognized for hosting working group meetings over the course of development of this standard:

W. Auduong, *Entergy, Pilgrim*  
J. Becerra, *PG&E, Diablo Canyon*  
R. A. Felker, *Western Services Corporation*  
J. B. Florence, *Nebraska Public Power District, Cooper*  
W. A. Fraser, *Westinghouse Electric Co.*  
D. P. Goodman, *Luminant, Comanche Peak*  
J. Lawter, *SCE&G, V. C. Summer*  
L. Linton, *Duke Energy, Crystal River*  
D. D. McDade, *Progress Energy, Harris Nuclear Plant*  
W. Potter, *Arizona Public Service Co., Palo Verde*

The Simulators, Instrumentation, Control Systems, Software & Testing Subcommittee had the following membership at the time of its approval of this standard:

P. K. Guha (Chair), *U.S. Department of Energy*  
L. T. Christensen (Vice Chair), *Bechtel Corporation*

J. K. August, *Southern Company*  
J. B. Florence, *Nebraska Public Power District, Cooper*  
J. P. Glover, *Graftel, Inc.*  
H. Liao, *Sandia National Laboratories*  
E. M. Lloyd, *Exitech Corporation*  
J. A. Sickie, *Exelon Corporation*  
M. E. Smith, *Nuclear Innovation North America, LLC*  
B. Stevens, *Exelon Corporation*

The Large Light Water Reactor Consensus Committee (LLWRCC) had the following membership at the time of its approval of this standard:

C. E. Carpenter (Chair), *U.S. Department of Energy*  
W. B. Reuland (Vice Chair), *Individual*

R. E. Becse, *Westinghouse Electric Co.*  
C. K. Brown, *Southern Company*  
R. J. Burg, *Engineering Planning & Management, Inc.*  
L. T. Christensen, *Bechtel Corporation*  
M. J. Colby, *Global Nuclear Fuel*  
G. J. Corpora, *Westinghouse Electric Co.*  
J. B. Florence, *Nebraska Public Power District, Cooper*  
M. L. French, *WECTEC*  
D. Gardner, *Kairos Power*  
S. W. Gebers, *Quantum Nuclear Services*  
J. P. Glover, *Graftel, Inc.*  
P. K. Guha, *U.S. Department of Energy*  
E. M. Johnson-Turnipseed, *Entergy*  
M. A. Linn, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*  
E. M. Lloyd, *Exitech Corporation*  
R. Markovich, *Contingency Management Consulting*  
T. K. Meneely, *Westinghouse Electric Co.*  
C. H. Moseley, Jr., *ASME NQA Liaison*  
S. D. Routh, *Bechtel Corporation*  
S. L. Stamm, *Individual*

*LLWRCC Observers:*

J. M. Bonfiglio, *Florida Power & Light, Turkey Point*  
R. M. Ruby, *Individual*  
J. C. Saldarini, *Advanced Reactor Concepts, LLC*

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# Nuclear Power Plant Simulators for Use in Operator Training and Examination

## 1 Scope and background

### 1.1 Scope

This standard<sup>1)</sup> establishes the functional requirements for full-scope nuclear power plant control room simulators that are subject to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulation for use in operator training and examination.<sup>2)</sup> This standard also establishes criteria for the scope of simulation, performance, and functional capabilities of nuclear power plant control room simulators.

This standard does not establish criteria for the use of simulators in training programs.

### 1.2 Background

Operating and training practices differ among the various organizations that operate nuclear power reactors; the common goals, however, are to ensure safety, equipment availability, and efficient operations. This standard provides flexibility in the design and use of nuclear power plant simulators in meeting these common goals. It is intended that in meeting the criteria of this standard, the simulator will be sufficiently complete and accurate to meet the operator training and examination needs of the industry as well as the requirements of the NRC, as described in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 10, "Energy," Part 55, "Operators' Licenses" (10CFR55) [1].<sup>3)</sup> These requirements provide guidance in determining the content and setting for training and examination purposes. This standard allows the use of a training needs assessment in several areas where the standard may require features in excess of the 10CFR55 [1] requirements.

Programs that utilize the simulator for purposes other than operator training and examination should identify specific functional and validation requirements for that use.

This standard is organized such that simulator functional and physical requirements described in Sec. 3, "General requirements," correspond to testing requirements described in Sec. 4, "Testing requirements." The sub-numbering of Secs. 3 and 4 is consistent so that corresponding paragraphs in each section address the same subject matter from a requirements and testing standpoint. Configuration management, including verification and validation, is described in Sec. 5, "Simulator configuration management."

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<sup>1)</sup> This standard, ANSI/ANS-3.5-2018, is hereinafter referred to as "this standard."

<sup>2)</sup> Guidance is provided in Appendix C to adapt this standard to part-task and limited-scope simulators to ensure fidelity appropriate to the intended use for operator training and examination.

<sup>3)</sup> Numbers in brackets refer to corresponding numbers in Sec. 6, "References."