



Revising the Regulatory Framework for Reprocessing Facilities

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Safety, Security and Protecting the Environment

- NRC is neither a proponent nor opponent of reprocessing.
- NRC has licensing jurisdiction over commercial production facilities.
- Several decades past, NRC licensed a reprocessing facility and issued construction authorizations under 10 CFR Part 50.
- Part 50 is still applicable today for licensing reprocessing facilities.
 - However, Part 50 regulations for production facilities have not evolved over the last several decades.
- NRC needed to evaluate existing regulations to consider their applicability for modern reprocessing facilities.



Milestones

- In 2006
 - GNEP initiatives contributed to Commission interest in being prepared for a pilot DOE owned reprocessing facility.
- In 2007
 - Commission directed staff to proceed with a regulatory gap analysis.
- In 2008
 - The Agency received communication from industry that there was commercial interest in pursuing licensing for reprocessing facilities.
 - In response, staff shifted focus from GNEP-facility regulations to a more broadly applicable framework for commercial reprocessing facilities.
- In 2009
 - Staff completed regulatory gap analysis.
 - Completion of regulatory gap analysis lays the foundation for the technical basis.
 - Staff is pursuing technical basis development.
 - Public meeting, in conjunction with the FCIX, discussing stakeholder and international perspectives.



Importance of Stakeholder Involvement

- NRC needs input from all stakeholders to better inform our process.
 - Rulemaking is envisioned to be a considerable effort, affecting many parts of 10 CFR.
 - Policy and technical issues are complex.
 - Staff is engaging all stakeholders early in the process, and will continue this effort.
 - Seeking active participation for:
 - Scope of the technical basis.
 - Stakeholder input for the complex gaps.
 - Continued support and feedback at future public meetings about specific topics e.g., safeguards, waste classification, etc.
- *This public meeting gives an overview of our efforts and provides an opportunity to engage all stakeholders on NRC objectives toward establishing a regulatory framework for licensing reprocessing facilities.*