

November 10, 2011

ALL AGREEMENT STATES

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE POLICY STATEMENT ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (FSME-11-099)

Purpose: To inform the recipients of an opportunity to comment¹ on the proposed changes to the policy statement on consumer products containing radioactive material.

Background: The Atomic Energy Commission issued the Consumer Products Policy Statement in 1965 because consumer products containing radioactive material are a source of routine, although very limited, exposure to the public. For example, a substantial portion of the population uses smoke detectors, and consequently receives a very small radiation exposure from this product.

The policy statement incorporates the three fundamental principles of radiation protection: the justification of a practice; the optimization of protection (the “As Low As Reasonably Achievable” practice, or ALARA); and the application of dose limits to individuals. Under the policy, approval of a proposed consumer product depends upon the associated exposures of persons to radiation and the apparent usefulness of the product.

The policy calls for monitoring the amount of radioactive materials being distributed for use by the general public, and reconsidering the policy if there is any indication that materials in consumer products may result in individuals receiving a significant fraction of the permissible dose.

The proposed revisions would update terminology and reflect changes in the theory and practice of radiation protection as it has evolved since 1965.

¹ This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029 expiration 11/30/2013. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

Discussion: The proposed revisions were published on October 14, 2011 in the Federal Register. Comments will be accepted through December 28, 2011. Comments may be submitted through the federal government's Rulemaking website at www.regulations.gov using Docket ID NRC-2010-0292; by e-mail to Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov; by fax to 301-415-1101; or by mail to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-3340, or the Office of Chief Financial Officer staff member named below.

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