

How does the NRC support the United States' nonproliferation policy?

The NRC supports the United States government's overall implementation of nonproliferation policy by implementing a robust regulatory regime that ensures that NRC-licensed facilities are constructed and operated safely and securely.

The NRC's comprehensive licensing and oversight framework ensures that access to NRC-licensed enrichment or reprocessing facilities and technology is properly controlled through appropriate physical protection, personnel security, and information protection requirements.

The NRC ensures that its licensing framework and oversight activities are aligned with national nonproliferation policies and objectives through its ongoing interaction with other Federal agencies having primary responsibility for implementing the U.S. nonproliferation policy.



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Nonproliferation Considerations in the Licensing of Enrichment and Reprocessing Facilities



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The NRC's comprehensive regulatory framework – which includes regulatory requirements and review, oversight, and interagency cooperation – adequately assesses proliferation risks and concerns associated with the licensing of an enrichment or reprocessing facility in the United States.

The NRC addresses nuclear nonproliferation concerns through:



Ongoing Oversight

- The NRC's robust oversight program ensures that enrichment and reprocessing facilities comply with NRC requirements for the protection of sensitive and classified information, technologies, equipment, and radioactive material.
- The NRC routinely inspects enrichment facilities to verify that these facilities are not modified to produce material that could be used in nuclear weapons.



Regulatory Requirements

- The NRC regulations for physical security, material control and accounting, information security, and export/import licensing focus on preventing the theft or diversion of radioactive materials and sensitive/classified technologies, materials, and equipment, including those related to enrichment and reprocessing facilities.

Ongoing Oversight

Regulatory Requirements

Active Interagency Cooperation

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- The NRC actively collaborates with Federal agencies within the Executive Branch that have primary responsibility for implementing U.S. nonproliferation policy.
- The NRC provides technical expertise to these agencies in carrying out their responsibilities.
- The NRC ensures that its licensing activities are aligned with U.S. nonproliferation goals and policies.