



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 9, 2017

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, VERMONT, WYOMING

NOTIFICATION OF AN UPCOMING MAY 23, 2017 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PATIENT RELEASE PROGRAM REGULATORY ISSUES (STC-17-043)

Purpose: To provide notification that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff will conduct a public meeting to discuss potential regulatory changes to the NRC's Patient Release Regulations under Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 35.75.

Background: On April 11, 2017, the NRC published a notice in the *Federal Register* (enclosure) which requests comments from the general public on its patient release programs. Specifically, the NRC requested input from the public on whether additional or alternate criteria are needed and whether to clarify the NRC's current patient release requirements. This information will be used to determine whether significant regulatory changes to the NRC's patient release requirements are warranted.

The six questions asked in the *Federal Register* notice include:

- A. Should the NRC develop an activity-based patient release threshold?
- B. Should the NRC amend the regulations to clarify the time frame for the current dose limit in 10 CFR 35.75(a) for releasing individuals? For example, should the regulations explicitly state that the criterion is a per year limit? If not, is there a different criterion that the NRC should consider?
- C. Should the NRC continue to apply the same dose criteria of 5 mSv (0.5 rem) to all members of the general public, including family members, young children, pregnant women, caregivers, hotel workers, and other members of the public when considering the release of patients?
- D. Should the NRC include a specific requirement for the release of a patient who is likely to expose young children or pregnant women to doses above the public dose limit?
- E. Should the NRC have a specific requirement for the licensee to have a patient isolation discussion with patients in sufficient time prior to the administration to provide the patient time to make isolation arrangements or the licensee the make plans to hold the patient, if the patient cannot be immediately released?
- F. Should the NRC explicitly include the time frame for providing instructions in the regulations (e.g., the instructions should be given prior to the procedure)?

The initial comment deadline was June 12, 2017. However, another *Federal Register* notice will be published soon that announces the extension of the comment period by an additional 15 days (June 27, 2017).

Discussion: The NRC staff will explain and clarify the information requested with stakeholders in a public meeting. During this public meeting, the NRC staff will briefly introduce each of the six questions (questions A-F) and then open the floor to participants in the room and on the phone to hear their views on the question(s). The NRC staff does not intend to provide any responses to comments received during the public meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (ET). The meeting will be webcast (<http://video.nrc.gov>) and available via bridgeline. The bridgeline information is:

Bridge Number: (888) 790-6447
Passcode: 6709422#

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or the individual named below:

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/RA Joseph Nick for/

Daniel S. Collins, Director
Division of Material Safety, State, Tribal
and Rulemaking Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice
(82 FR 17465-17467)

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF AN UPCOMING MAY 23, 2017 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PATIENT RELEASE PROGRAM REGULATORY ISSUES (STC-17-043) (MAY 9, 2017)

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