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NRC CONSIDERS CHANGING REQUIREMENTS FOR GUARDS AT CERTAIN NUCLEAR FUEL FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering amending its regulations for certain nuclear fuel facilities to ensure that the facilities' security guards can adequately perform their duties. The revisions would require the guards to participate in a continuing physical fitness program, pass an annual physical performance test and qualify for daytime weapons firing according to new criteria.

The physical fitness program would have to be approved by the NRC and would include aerobic exercises such as running and bicycling, as well as exercises that develop strength, flexibility and endurance in the major muscle groups. Guards, armed response personnel and members of the tactical response team (the primary response team for security protection for each shift) would be evaluated once every four months to determine the effectiveness of the fitness training program.

To demonstrate physical fitness, guards, armed response personnel and tactical response team members would be required to run certain distances within specified times. For tactical response team members, the standard would be a one-mile run in 8 minutes 30 seconds or less and a 40-yard dash starting from a prone position in 8.0 seconds or less. For response guards and armed response personnel who are not members of the tactical response team, the criteria would be a one-half mile run in 4 minutes 40 seconds or less and a 40-yard dash starting from a prone position in 8.5 seconds or less. Each individual would have to requalify once every 12 months.

The requirements for daytime weapons firing qualification would be updated and made similar to requirements for night firing issued in November 1988.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed changes, which are to Part 73 of the Commission's regulations, by March 12, 1992. They should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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