

No. 94-125
Tel. 301-415-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, July 28, 1994)

NRC ISSUES REGULATIONS ON PHYSICAL FITNESS
OF SECURITY GUARDS AT CERTAIN NUCLEAR FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations for certain licensed nuclear fuel fabrication facilities to ensure that the facilities' security guards can adequately perform their duties. The revisions require the guards to participate in a continuing physical fitness training program and to pass an annual physical fitness test.

The facilities affected are Babcock and Wilcox of Lynchburg, Virginia, and Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., Erwin, Tennessee.

The physical fitness training program will have to include aerobic exercises such as running and bicycling, as well as exercises that develop strength, flexibility and endurance. Guards, armed response personnel, and members of the tactical response team, who constitute the primary reaction force for security protection for each shift, will be evaluated once every four months to determine the effectiveness of the fitness training program.

To demonstrate physical fitness in the annual test, guards, armed response personnel, and tactical response team members will be required to run certain distances within specified times. For tactical response team members, the criteria is a 1-mile run in 8 minutes and 30 seconds or less and a 40-yard dash starting from a prone position in 8 seconds or less. For response guards and armed response personnel who are not members of the tactical response team, the criteria is a one-half mile run in 4 minutes and 40 seconds or less and a 40-yard dash starting from a prone position in 8.5 seconds or less. Each individual will have to requalify once a year.

As an alternative to the NRC-specified training and test, licensees will be permitted to propose, for NRC approval, a site-specific alternative test if it is administered at least quarterly and duplicates the response tasks that a guard would need to perform if the facility came under attack.