

No. 93-147

October 6, 1993)

NRC ISSUES PROPOSED RULES ON PHYSICAL FITNESS
OF GUARDS AT CERTAIN NUCLEAR FUEL FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering amending its regulations for certain nuclear fuel fabrication facilities to ensure that the facilities' security guards can adequately perform their duties in the event of an assault by an adversary.

The revisions would require the guards to participate in a continuing physical fitness training program and pass an annual performance test, with elements of the training program and test to be specified in the NRC regulations. Alternatively, the changes would permit licensees to propose, for NRC approval, a content-based site-specific test that duplicates the response tasks that a guard would need to perform if the facility came under attack. This test would be administered at least quarterly.

A proposed rule permitting only the first alternative, participating in an NRC-specified fitness program and passing an NRC-specified annual test, was published in the Federal Register on December 13, 1991. As a result of analysis of the comments received, the Commission has reexamined its position and believes that the second alternative, passing an NRC-approved site-specific test administered quarterly, could also be acceptable. Since the public has not had an opportunity to comment on this alternative, a new proposed rule is being published in the Federal Register for comment.

The new proposed rule has also been modified to exempt from the physical fitness testing individuals who serve in static response positions, such as operators of central or secondary alarm stations or guards at exit and entry portals, provided they are not assigned to temporary response guard duties.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed revisions, which are to Part 73 of the Commission's regulations, by December 20, 1993 (75 days following publication of a Federal Register notice on October 6, 1993). The comments should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention:
Docketing and Service Branch.