



NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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NRC AMENDS REGULATIONS TO ADD TRANSNUCLEAR TN-32 CASK SYSTEM TO APPROVED LIST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to add the Transnuclear TN-32 cask system to the list of approved cask designs that utilities may use -- under a general license and without site-specific approval -- to store spent fuel safely at their nuclear power plants.

Any nuclear power reactor licensee may use an NRC-approved cask design to store spent fuel if they notify the NRC in advance, store the fuel under certain conditions, and meet requirements of the general license. These requirements ensure that the reactor site characteristics and potential site-boundary radiation doses are within the scope of the cask's safety analysis report and the reactor license.

The Transnuclear TN-32 cask system certificate contains conditions for use that are similar to other NRC-approved casks. However, the certificate for each cask design may differ in some specific areas, such as operating procedures, training and spent fuel specifications.

The NRC staff issued a Safety Evaluation Report which finds that use of the cask will provide adequate protection of public health and safety. Slight modifications to the rule were made based on comments received after the staff's August 23 proposal to add the TN-32 cask system to the list of approved casks.

The rule will become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, expected shortly.

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