

4/30/97

FORM FOR REG AGENDA SHEET

7. No. 269. Proposed Amendments to Subpart H of 10 CFR Part 20, "Respiratory Protection and Controls to Restrict Internal Exposure and Appendix A, and Proposed Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 8.15, "Acceptable Programs for Respiratory Protection."

RIN: 3150-

Abstract. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not made substantive changes in its regulation of the use of respiratory protection by licensees in several decades. When 10 CFR Part 20 was comprehensively revised in 1991, important consensus standards development was underway by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on respiratory protection equipment and procedures. The new guidance, ANSI standard Z88.2-1992, "American National Standard Practice for Respiratory Protection" is now available and is essentially the technical base for this proposed rulemaking and regulatory guide revision.

The proposed changes reaffirm the Commission's intention to eliminate the unnecessary and detrimental use of respirators by applying ALARA principles to the sum of the Deep Dose Equivalent (DOE) and the Committed Effective Dose Equivalent (CEDE), or the Total Effective Dose Equivalent (TEDE). The use of process or engineering controls, decontamination of work areas, access control, and other procedures are stressed instead of the automatic use of respiratory protection devices, which tend to increase external dose and stress.

The proposed rulemaking recognizes new respiratory protection devices that have been proven effective, discourages the use of other devices that are now considered less effective, adopts new Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) based on ANSI determinations and revises respiratory protection procedures such as fit testing to reflect current industry good practice. The proposed changes are believed by the staff to be a burden reduction with savings to NRC licensees estimated to be 2 million dollars per year. The proposed rule would be considerably less prescriptive with no reduction in worker health or safety.

Timetable: Proposed Rule Published 09/00/97

Final Rule Published 04/00/98

Legal Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2073, 2093, 2095, 2111, 2133, 2134, 2201, 2232,

2236

Effects on Small Business and Other Entities. None

Agency Contact: Alan K. Roecklein, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research,
(301) 415-6223.