

From: "Frazee, Terry" <Terry.Frazee@DOH.WA.GOV>
To: Yawar Faraz, all other addressees have been deleted
Date: 11/6/01 1:21PM
Subject: NRC Staff Revises NUREG-1520, SRP for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility

NRC has been working on this draft NUREG for quite some time, basically a chapter at a time and mostly with industry folks. We didn't really wake up to what was going on until late in the process. We submitted comments but they were "too late" for consideration in preparing the draft chapters of interest to us and other states. However, now appears to be another opportunity to "make a difference"! On November 2, Yawar Faraz, Sr. Project Manager, (301) 415-8113, yhf@nrc.gov, Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, sent an e-mail to an impressive list of folks (that appeared to me to be mostly industry and NRC staff) that announced:

"(3) The NRC considers the November 2, 2001 version of the SRP as a final draft document. The NRC requests that any additional comments on Chapter 3 or its Appendix A or the entire SRP be submitted via e-mail or by letter to me by November 16, 2001.

(4) The NRC expects to incorporate, as appropriate, any comments submitted on the SRP by the end of November 2001. The NRC expects to finalize the SRP in December 2001."

Immediately below are the comments we submitted. In many respect we believe they are generally applicable and would encourage all states, not just those with Fuel Cycle facilities, to review the NRC draft NUREG-1520 and provide comments to NRC either in support of ours or to "provide perspective" on our comments!

Subject: COMMENTS ON DRAFT NUREG 1520 from Washington State
Since Washington State has a fuel fabrication facility, the Department of Health reviewed Chapters 8, 9, and 10 of Draft NUREG 1520 - Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility. These are the chapters that most impact the state and local communities surrounding a fuel cycle facility. Within these chapters there were four areas that should be addressed. We will outline them briefly below. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at the email addresses below.

Chapter 8 - Emergency Management

Emergency classifications for fuel cycle facilities and nuclear power plants are not the same. Fuel cycle facilities are not required to have emergency plans unless they have the potential to exceed 1 rem exposure to the general public offsite and even then their highest emergency classification level is

Site Area Emergency. A nuclear power plant, on the other hand, is required to declare a General Emergency if the accident exceeds EPA Protective Action Guides (1 rem) and must also plan for offsite dose in the 100 mrem to 1 rem range. This is inconsistent and confusing. We are concerned that with the less conservative approach taken for fuel cycle facilities state and county agencies may not respond in a manner adequate to protect the public. NRC should assure consistency in its emergency response requirements.

Chapter 9 - Environmental Protection

* States require licensees with potential for environmental impact to provide an annual environmental surveillance report to the state. Since states will inherit fuel cycle facility sites after decommissioning, states must receive and review copies of annual environmental surveillance reports. NRC should require fuel cycle facilities to submit annual environmental reports to the state radiation control program.

* While this chapter clearly describes how to do an environmental report, it does not adequately cover environmental protection measures. The section listing the regulatory guidance for environmental protection (9.4.2) does not include any guidance for defining an environmental monitoring program such as is used for nuclear power plants or by states for their licensees. NRC should provide specific guidance in these areas. Suggestions for inclusion are listed below:

- Regulatory Guide 4.1 Programs for Monitoring Radioactivity in the Environs of Nuclear Power Plants
- Assessment Branch Technical Position Rev. 1 - An Acceptable Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program
- Criteria for an Adequate Radiation Control Program, Environmental Radiation Surveillance - Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors

Chapter 10 - Decommissioning

Because states will ultimately inherit responsibility for these sites, states must be involved throughout the decommissioning process and receive copies of the final decommissioning report. NRC should ensure this happens.

For questions:

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Finally, here is another e-mail from NRC that provides information on accessing " ... NRC's November 2, 2001, revision to Draft NUREG-1520 Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility and the redline/strikeout versions of the SRP's Chapter 3 and the appendix to Chapter 3. I am sending this e-mail to notify you that by this Wednesday (11/7/2001), these electronic files may also be found in NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR or ADAMS), with document accession numbers as follows:

SRP Intro - ML013060542
Chapter 1 - ML013060552
Chapter 2 - ML013060554
Chapter 3 - ML013060560
Appendix A to Chapter 3 - ML013090305
Chapter 4 - ML013090205
Chapter 5 - ML013090218
Chapter 6 - ML013090222
Chapter 7 - ML013090257
Chapter 8 - ML013090263
Chapter 9 - ML013090278
Chapter 10 - ML013090291
Chapter 11 - ML013090297
Appendices A, B, & C to the SRP - ML013090311
Redline/strikeout version of Chapter 3 - ML013090313
Redline/strikeout version of Appendix A to Chapter 3 - ML013090319"

There is a short turn around on this (November 16!) because NRC has been working diligently with the industry representatives and believes they are nearly at an end to the project! The only way that changes will be made is if enough folks point out the shortcomings! We encourage you to help make this a "better product"! Please send your comment directly to Yawar Faraz, Sr. Project Manager, (301) 415-8113, yhf@nrc.gov

"The Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of people in Washington State."

This message from Terry C. Frazee
e-mail terry.frazee@doh.wa.gov

Quick ways to reach me:
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Also, visit our Home Page at
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/rp>

CC: "Erickson, John (DOH)" <John.Erickson@DOH.WA.GOV>, "McBaugh, Debra" <Debra.McBaugh@DOH.WA.GOV>, "yhf@nrc.gov" <yhf@nrc.gov>, "mnl@nrc.gov" <mnl@nrc.gov>

Accession #: ML013110488