

December 19, 2002

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to publish a final rule in the Federal Register that will amend the material control and accounting (MC&A) requirements for special nuclear material. NRC is revising the submittal date for the Material Balance Reports and the Inventory Composition Reports to provide more flexibility for licensees and to reduce the number of reports. The final rule will relocate the remaining MC&A requirements from 10 CFR Part 70 to 10 CFR Part 74 and will make the MC&A requirements for facilities that possess special nuclear material of moderate significance more risk-informed. The final rule will also revise the categorical exclusion that covers approval of safeguards plans to include amendments of those plans, correct some typographical errors, delete old implementation dates, and clarify and add definitions to 10 CFR Part 74. The amendments are procedural in nature, and of themselves, would have no significant impact on public health and safety, the environment, or common defense and security.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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Identical Letter sent to The Honorable Harry Reid with cc: to Senator James M. Inhofe

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December 19, 2002

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to publish a final rule in the Federal Register that will amend the material control and accounting (MC&A) requirements for special nuclear material. NRC is revising the submittal date for the Material Balance Reports and the Inventory Composition Reports to provide more flexibility for licensees and to reduce the number of reports. The final rule will relocate the remaining MC&A requirements from 10 CFR Part 70 to 10 CFR Part 74 and will make the MC&A requirements for facilities that possess special nuclear material of moderate significance more risk-informed. The final rule will also revise the categorical exclusion that covers approval of safeguards plans to include amendments of those plans, correct some typographical errors, delete old implementation dates, and clarify and add definitions to 10 CFR Part 74. The amendments are procedural in nature, and of themselves, would have no significant impact on public health and safety, the environment, or common defense and security.

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cc: Senator James M. Inhofe