

June 9, 2003

The Honorable Joe L. 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 "Event Notification Requirements" in 10 CFR Parts 72 and 73. This amendment to NRC's regulations in Part 72 will change several event notification requirements that apply to an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and a Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) installation. The rule will also amend safeguards event notification requirements, in Part 73, that apply to: (1) a reactor facility; (2) a fuel cycle facility; (3) an ISFSI; (4) an MRS; (5) licensees that possess or transport special nuclear material or spent fuel; (6) a geological repository operations area; and (7) a gaseous diffusion plant. Some changes will reduce licensee burden by consolidating some notifications and lengthening, where appropriate, the reporting period for other notifications. These changes will not impact public health and safety. New requirements will be added to permit the NRC to more effectively carry out its responsibilities during emergencies and in responding to public, media, and other stakeholder inquiries during events or conditions at licensees' facilities. These changes will also align the standards for both the event notification requirements and the safeguards event notification requirements, with previous changes, to the power reactor event notification requirements in 10 CFR Part 50 made in a final rule issued on October 25, 2000, (65 FR 63769).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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Office of Congressional Affairs

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Identical Letter sent to The Honorable George V. Voinovich with cc: to Senator Thomas Carper

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June 9, 2003

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
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 "Event Notification Requirements" in 10 CFR Parts 72 and 73. This amendment to NRC's regulations in Part 72 will change several event notification requirements that apply to an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and a Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) installation. The rule will also amend safeguards event notification requirements, in Part 73, that apply to: (1) a reactor facility; (2) a fuel cycle facility; (3) an ISFSI; (4) an MRS; (5) licensees that possess or transport special nuclear material or spent fuel; (6) a geological repository operations area; and (7) a gaseous diffusion plant. Some changes will reduce licensee burden by consolidating some notifications and lengthening, where appropriate, the reporting period for other notifications. These changes will not impact public health and safety. New requirements will be added to permit the NRC to more effectively carry out its responsibilities during emergencies and in responding to public, media, and other stakeholder inquiries during events or conditions at licensees' facilities. These changes will also align the standards for both the event notification requirements and the safeguards event notification requirements, with previous changes, to the power reactor event notification requirements in 10 CFR Part 50 made in a final rule issued on October 25, 2000, (65 FR 63769).

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