
Regulatory Analysis for the Final Rule on National Source Tracking of Sealed Sources - 10 CFR Parts 20 and 32

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations to implement a new program called the National Source Tracking System. Under this program, licensees will be required to report information on the manufacture, transfer, receipt, disassembly, and disposal of nationally tracked sources. This information will be used to support the National Source Tracking System and will provide NRC with a life cycle account for nationally tracked sources and, thus, improve accountability and controls over them.

This regulatory analysis evaluates the values and impacts associated with the two regulatory alternatives considered by NRC to address the tracking of sealed sources:

- *Option 1: No Action.* The no-action alternative is the baseline for this analysis. Because the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires NRC to issue regulations for a source tracking system, the no action alternative is not a viable option.
- *Option 2: National Source Tracking System.* Under the National Source Tracking System alternative, NRC would establish the National Source Tracking System. Under this program, each licensee who manufactures, transfers, receives, disassembles, or disposes of a nationally tracked source would be required to: (1) report its initial inventory of Category 1 and/or 2 nationally tracked sources; (2) complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report after each transaction; (3) correct any errors in previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports within five business days of the discovery; and (4) reconcile and verify its inventory of nationally tracked sources on an annual basis. In addition, licensees who manufacture nationally tracked sources after the effective date of the rule would be required to assign a unique serial number to each nationally tracked source.

The primary function of Option 1 is to establish the baseline condition from which the incremental values and impacts associated with the National Source Tracking System are calculated.

NRC estimated the incremental costs to industry and NRC under Option 2. These costs were estimated for the years 2006 through 2016. All costs incurred in the future were calculated in 2006 dollars using discount rates of 7 and 3 percent. The results are presented in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1
Present Value of the Total Costs Under Option 2,
the National Source Tracking System Alternative: 2006 - 2016 ^a
(2006 dollars)

| Discount Rate | Costs to Industry | Cost to Agreement States | Costs to NRC | Total Costs |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 7% | \$3,600,000 | \$700,000 | \$25,100,000 | \$29,300,000 |
| 3% | \$3,900,000 | \$800,000 | \$29,300,000 | \$34,000,000 |

^a Table includes rounding error.

As shown in Table ES-1, the net present value under Option 2, using a 7 percent discount rate, is estimated to be a total cost of \$29,300,000. Using a 3 percent discount rate, the net present value is estimated to be a total cost of \$34,000,000.

NRC staff believes that the expected qualitative values contribute substantially to the benefits of the National Source Tracking System. These qualitative values include:

- *Improved Accountability and Control for Nationally Tracked Sources.* The National Source Tracking System is expected to result in improved accountability and control over nationally tracked sources. This is expected to improve public health (accident/event) and avert potential offsite property damage and costs by decreasing the risk of a security-related event involving nationally tracked sources.
- *Improved Understanding of the Location of Nationally Tracked Sources.* Information contained in the National Source Tracking System would improve the information available to NRC, as well as other government entities (e.g., Department of Homeland Security, Agreement States), concerning the locations of nationally tracked sources.
- *Improved Regulatory Efficiency.* The establishment of a national program to monitor the location of nationally tracked sources would improve regulatory efficiency by: (1) increasing accountability among all parties associated with a nationally tracked source transaction and (2) responding to a recommendation in the IAEA's Code of Conduct.
- *Enhanced Ability to Promote and Maintain the Common Defense and Security.* Information contained in the National Source Tracking System would allow NRC to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources and, thus, improve accountability and controls over them. Consequently, the National Source Tracking System would enhance NRC's ability to maintain and promote the common defense and security.
- *Increased Public Confidence.* Information contained in the National Source Tracking System would allow NRC to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources. This is expected to result in increased public confidence in NRC's regulation of inventories of radioactive materials that could be used in the production of radiological dispersal devices (RDDs) and radiological exposure devices (REDs).

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires NRC to promulgate regulations establishing a national source tracking system by August 8, 2006. In addition, NRC believes that the incremental costs to licensees and NRC under Option 2 are justified because the requested actions and information are necessary to monitor the location of nationally tracked sources.

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1. Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations to implement a new program called the National Source Tracking System. Under this program, licensees will be required to report information on the manufacture, transfer, receipt, disassembly, and disposal of nationally tracked sources. This information will be used to support the National Source Tracking System and will provide NRC with a life cycle account for nationally tracked sources and, thus, improve accountability and controls over them.

The purpose of this regulatory analysis is to evaluate the values and impacts associated with the National Source Tracking system. NRC considers the regulatory analysis process an integral part of its statutory mission to promote the common defense and security, to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, and to protect the environment from civilian uses of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials. This document presents background material, describes the objectives of the regulatory action, and evaluates the values and impacts of the regulatory alternatives.

1.1 Background

As a result of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11, 2001, NRC has undertaken a comprehensive review of nuclear material security requirements, with particular focus on radioactive material of concern. This radioactive material, including Cobalt-60, Cesium-137, Iridium-192, and Americium-24, has the potential to be used in a radiological dispersal device (RDD) or a radiological exposure device (RED) in the absence of proper security measures. NRC's review takes into consideration the changing domestic and international threat environments and related U.S. Government supported international initiatives in the nuclear security area, particularly activities conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In June 2002, the Secretary of Energy and the NRC Chairman met to discuss the adequate protection of inventories of nuclear materials that could be used in a RDD. At the June meeting, the Secretary of Energy and the NRC Chairman agreed to convene an Interagency Working Group on Radiological Dispersal Devices to address security concerns. In May 2003, the joint U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/NRC report, "Radiological Dispersal Devices: An Initial Study to Identify Radioactive Materials of Greatest Concern and Approaches to Their Tracking, Tagging, and Disposition," was issued. The report recommended development of a national source tracking system to better understand and monitor the location and movement of sources of interest.

NRC has also supported U.S. Government efforts to establish international guidance for the safety and security of radioactive materials of concern. This effort has resulted in a major revision of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (Code of Conduct). The revised Code of Conduct was approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in September 2003. In particular, the Code of Conduct recommends that each IAEA member State develop a national source registry of radioactive sources that should include Category 1 and 2 radioactive sources as described in Annex 1 of the Code of Conduct. The recommendation covers 16 radionuclides that should be included in the source registry.

The U.S. Government has formally notified the Director General of the IAEA of its political commitment for the current Code of Conduct. Although the Code of Conduct does not have the stature of an international treaty, and its provisions are non-binding on IAEA member States, the U.S. Government has endorsed the Code of Conduct and is working toward implementation of its various provisions. The Commission is conducting this rulemaking to reflect those Code of Conduct recommendations that are consistent with NRC's responsibilities under the Atomic Energy Act.

The President signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 into law on August 8, 2005. It contains a provision on national source tracking that requires NRC to issue regulations establishing a mandatory tracking system for radiation sources in the United States. The regulations must be issued no later than one year after the date of enactment of the Act. The Act requires the tracking system to: (1) enable the identification of each radiation source by serial number or other unique identifier; (2) require reporting within 7 days of any change of possession of a radiation source; (3) require reporting within 24 hours of any loss of control of, or accountability for, a radiation source; and (4) provide for reporting through a secure internet connection. The Act further requires NRC to coordinate with the Secretary of Transportation to ensure compatibility, to the maximum extent practicable, between the tracking system and any system established by the Secretary of Transportation to track the shipment of radiation sources. Under the Act radiation source means a Category 1 source or a Category 2 source as defined in the Code of Conduct and any other material that poses a threat, as determined, by the Commission, by regulation, other than spent nuclear fuel and special nuclear material.

Efforts to improve controls over sealed sources face significant challenges, especially with regard to the need to secure the materials without discouraging their beneficial use in academic, medical, and industrial applications. Radioactive materials provide critical capabilities in the oil and gas, electrical power, construction, and food industries; are used to treat millions of patients each year in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures; are used in a variety of military applications; and are used in technology research and development involving academic, government, and private institutions. These materials are as diverse in geographical location as they are in functional use.

National source tracking is part of a comprehensive radioactive source control program for radioactive materials of greatest concern. Although neither a national source tracking system nor a source registry can ensure the physical protection of sources, they will provide greater source accountability. Thus, NRC believes that a national source tracking system, in conjunction with other activities, should result in improved security for radioactive sources. It is also required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

1.2 Objectives of the Regulatory Action

There is broad U.S. Government and international interest in tracking radioactive sources to improve accountability and control. Currently, there is no single U.S. source of information to verify the licensed users, locations, and quantities of these materials. Separate NRC and Agreement State systems contain information on licensees and the maximum amounts of materials they are authorized to possess but do not record actual sources.

To address this lack of information on actual material possessed, NRC, with the cooperation of the Agreement States, began working on an interim database of risk-significant sources (Category 1 and Category 2). In November 2003, both NRC and Agreement State licensees were contacted and requested to provide some basic information on the sealed sources located at their facilities. Of the approximately 2,600 licensees contacted, over half of the licensees reported possessing Category 1 or Category 2 sealed sources. The interim database was updated in 2005 and is being updated for 2006. NRC plans to replace the interim database with the National Source Tracking System. While the interim database provides a snapshot in time, the National Source Tracking System is expected to provide information on an ongoing basis.

Development of the National Source Tracking System includes information technology (IT) development and maintenance activities. When completely operational, the National Source Tracking System will be a web-based system that will allow licensees to meet the reporting requirements on-line with ease. This rulemaking establishes the regulatory foundation for the National Source Tracking System.

To inform the development of the National Source Tracking System, NRC established an Interagency Coordinating Committee to provide guidance regarding interagency issues associated with the development, coordination, and implementation of the system. The Committee membership consists of representatives from various Federal agencies with an interest in source security and a representative from the Agreement States. The views of the Committee were included in the development of the requirements for the National Source Tracking System and this rulemaking.

2. Identification and Preliminary Analysis of Alternative Approaches

This regulatory analysis evaluates the values and impacts of complying with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 with regard to the establishment of a source tracking system.

2.1 Option 1: No Action

Option 1 is the baseline for this analysis. Because the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires NRC to issue regulations for a source tracking system, the no action alternative is not a viable option.

2.2 Option 2: National Source Tracking System

Under Option 2, NRC would establish the National Source Tracking System. The final rule implements current United States policy for a National Source Tracking System for Category 1 and Category 2 sources. Under this program, each licensee who manufactures, transfers, receives, disassembles, or disposes of a nationally tracked source would be required to:

- Report its initial inventory of Category 1 nationally tracked sources to the National Source Tracking System by March 15, 2007.
- Report its initial inventory of Category 2 nationally tracked sources to the National Source Tracking System by March 30, 2007

- Complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report (i.e., NRC Form 748) after each transaction
- Correct any errors in previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports within five business days of the discovery
- Reconcile and verify the inventory of nationally tracked sources it possesses against the data in the National Source Tracking System on an annual basis

In addition, each licensee who manufactures a nationally tracked source after the effective date of the rule would be required to assign a unique serial number to each nationally tracked source.

NRC considered the inclusion of Category 3 sources in the National Source Tracking System. However, at the time of the proposed rule neither the Interagency Coordinating Committee, Steering Committee or Working Group recommended their inclusion. The proposed rule invited specific comment on the inclusion of Category 3 sources and sought information on the burden to licensees. The information was sought so an informed decision on the inclusion of Category 3 sources could be made at a later date. NRC does not have adequate information on the number of sources and the number of impacted licensees. If Category 3 sources were included in the National Source Tracking System, for consistency of treatment would they also need to be included in the import/export provisions and other security related requirements that rely on the Category 1 and Category 2 thresholds? Many Category 3 sources are possessed under general license; questions related to this also need to be addressed before a final decision is made. Additionally, the Category 3 sources do not pose the same risk as Category 1 and Category 2 sources. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the formation of the interagency Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force. This Task Force will be evaluating, among other things, whether modifications to the source tracking system should be made. The Interagency Coordinating Committee will also continue to look at the National Source Tracking System.

3. Analysis of Values and Impacts

The three subsections below describe the analysis conducted to identify and evaluate the values and impacts expected to result from the implementation of the National Source Tracking System. Subsection 3.1 identifies the attributes that the National Source Tracking System is expected to affect. Subsection 3.2 describes the methodology used to analyze the values and impacts associated with the National Source Tracking System. Subsection 3.3 discusses the results of the analysis.

3.1 Identification of Affected Attributes

This subsection identifies the attributes, within the public and private sectors, that the National Source Tracking System is expected to affect, using the list of potential attributes provided in Chapter 5 of NUREG/BR-0184, "Regulatory Analysis Technical Evaluation Handbook," dated January 1997 and in Chapter 4 of NUREG/BR-0058, Rev. 5, "Regulatory Analysis Guidelines of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission," dated September 2004. Each attribute listed was evaluated. The basis for selecting those attributes expected to be affected by the National

Source Tracking System is presented below.

The National Source Tracking System is expected to affect the following attributes:

- *Public Health (Accident/Event).* The National Source Tracking System will require licensees to report information on the manufacture, transfer, receipt, and disposal of nationally tracked sources. This information provides a life cycle account for these sources. As a result, the regulatory action is expected to improve accountability and controls over them. This reduces the risk that terrorists may obtain and use radioactive materials in the production of RDDs and REDs and, therefore, has a positive effect on public health.
- *Offsite Property.* As stated above, licensees will be required to provide a life cycle account for nationally tracked sources. Improvement in the accountability and controls over these sources is expected to avert potential offsite property damage and costs (e.g., long-term relocation, emergency response) that may follow from a terrorist attack in which RDDs and/or REDs are used.
- *Industry Implementation.* The regulatory action will require licensees to report their initial inventory of Category 1 and 2 nationally tracked sources to the National Source Tracking System. Licensees who reported nationally tracked source information to the interim database will only need to verify or update their reported inventory information. Licensees who did not provide nationally tracked source information to the interim database will need to report their inventory information by the specified dates. As a result, licensees (i.e., industry) will incur one-time implementation costs under the regulatory action.
- *Industry Operation.* The regulatory action will require licensees to: (1) complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report after each transaction; (2) correct any errors in previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports within five business days of the discovery; (3) reconcile and verify the inventories of nationally tracked sources they possess against the data in the National Source Tracking System on an annual basis; and (4) assign a unique serial number to each nationally tracked source they manufacture (if applicable). As a result, licensees (i.e., industry) will incur annual operating costs under the regulatory action.
- *NRC Implementation.* To implement the regulatory action, NRC will conduct IT development activities. Specifically, NRC will arrange to develop a web-based National Source Tracking System, as well as guidance on how to report information on nationally tracked source transactions to the National Source Tracking System.¹ NRC will also conduct training workshops. As a result, NRC will incur one-time implementation costs under the regulatory action.
- *NRC Operation.* Under the regulatory action, NRC staff will review nationally tracked source information submitted to the National Source Tracking System and arrange for

¹ Consistent with direction in Section 5.7.9 of NUREG/BR-0184, this analysis does not include the pre-decisional costs of developing and issuing the proposed rule.

- operation and maintenance activities on the web-based National Source Tracking System. NRC will also conduct inspections related to the system. As a result, NRC will incur annual operating costs under the regulatory action.
- *Other Government.* Under the regulatory action, other Federal agencies and State and local governments (e.g., Department of Homeland Security, Agreement States) will have access to and benefit from the information contained in the National Source Tracking System. This information may allow them to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources and focus resources on higher risk licensees (e.g., based on the number of nationally tracked sources they possess). In addition, the information contained in the National Source Tracking System should improve coordination among the various agencies.
- *Improvements in Knowledge.* The regulatory action will require licensees to report information on the manufacture, transfer, receipt, disassembly, and disposal of nationally tracked sources. This information will allow NRC to better know the location of nationally tracked sources.
- *Regulatory Efficiency.* The regulatory action will improve regulatory efficiency by establishing a national source tracking program to monitor the location of nationally tracked sources. Consequently, there should be increased accountability among all parties associated with a nationally tracked source transaction. In addition, the regulatory action would improve regulatory efficiency by implementing applicable features of the IAEA's Code of Conduct.
- *Safeguards and Security Considerations.* The regulatory action will require licensees to provide a life cycle account for nationally tracked sources. This information will allow NRC to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources and thus, improve accountability and controls over them. Consequently, the regulatory action will enhance NRC's ability to maintain and promote the common defense and security.
- *Other Considerations.* The regulatory action will require licensees to provide a life cycle account for nationally tracked sources. This information will allow NRC to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources. As a result, the regulatory action may increase public confidence in NRC's regulation of inventories of radioactive materials that could be used in the production of RDDs and REDs.

The National Source Tracking System is *not* expected to affect the following attributes:

- Public Health (Routine)
- Occupational Health (Accident)
- Occupational Health (Routine)
- Onsite Property
- General Public
- Environmental Considerations

3.2 Methodology

This subsection describes the methodology used to analyze the values and impacts associated with the implementation of the National Source Tracking System. The values include any desirable changes in the affected attributes, while the impacts include any undesirable changes in the affected attributes.

This analysis relies on both a quantitative and a qualitative analysis of the affected attributes. The quantitative analysis involves the assessment of values (savings) and impacts (costs) under the National Source Tracking System. The qualitative analysis involves a discussion of those attributes that NRC was not able to quantify.

The balance of this subsection describes the most significant analytical data and assumptions used in the quantitative analysis of the affected attributes.

3.2.1 Baseline for Analysis

The analysis measures the incremental values and impacts of the implementation and operation of the National Source Tracking System relative to a baseline (Option 1, the no-action alternative), which is how the world would be in the absence of the National Source Tracking System.

3.2.2 Assumptions

The following subsections discuss the assumptions used in the analysis.

3.2.2.1 Number of Licensees that Possess Nationally Tracked Sources

Based on data from NRC's interim database of nationally tracked sources and NRC staff's best judgment, NRC estimates that there will be 1,350 licensees that may possess Category 1 and/or 2 nationally tracked sources. Of the 1,350 licensees, 350 are assumed to be NRC licensees and 1,000 are assumed to be Agreement State licensees. These values provide an upper bound for cost estimates, the actual numbers are expected to be lower. .

3.2.2.2 Number of Nationally Tracked Sources

Based on data in NRC's interim database of nationally tracked sources and NRC staff's best judgment, NRC estimates that, collectively, licensees possess approximately 75,000 Category 1 and/or 2 nationally tracked sources. The interim database contains information on about 3,600 of these sources².

3.2.2.3 Method of Submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports

² In providing nationally tracked source information for the interim database, licensees were allowed to treat irradiators and gamma knives as a single source to encourage reporting of some data. Each gamma knife actually has 201 individual sources and each irradiator has from a few sources to over 1,500 individual sources.

Based on best judgment, NRC anticipates that, of the 1,350 licenses with nationally tracked sources, about 75 percent (1,015 licensees) would report nationally tracked source transaction information using on-line forms, about 15 percent (200 licensees) using computer-readable format files, about 4.75 percent (64 licensees) by fax, about 4.75 percent (64 licensees) by mail, and about 0.5 percent (7 licensees) by telephone with followup by fax or mail. These assumptions are reflected in Table 1.

Table 1
Estimated Number of Licensees that Possess
Nationally Tracked Sources, by Report Submission Method

| Submission Method | Total Number of Licensees |
|--|---------------------------|
| On-line forms | 1,015 |
| Computer-readable format file | 200 |
| Fax | 64 |
| Mail | 64 |
| Telephone with followup by fax or mail | 7 |
| Total | 1,350 |

3.2.2.4 Number of National Source Tracking Transaction Reports

Based on data in NRC’s interim database of nationally tracked sources and NRC staff’s best judgment, NRC estimates that, each year, licensees perform up to 73,050 nationally tracked source “transactions.” NRC estimates that, of these 73,050 transactions, 15,000 are associated with the manufacture of new nationally tracked sources, 24,000 with the transfer of nationally tracked sources, 24,000 with the receipt of nationally tracked sources, 10,000 with the disassembly of nationally tracked sources, and 50 with the disposal of nationally tracked sources. These numbers are based on the assumption that gamma knife sources are replaced every five years, radiography sources are replaced every four months, and one tenth of the irradiator sources are exchanged every year. These assumptions are reflected in Table 2.

Table 2
Estimated Annual Number of Nationally Tracked Source Transactions

| Type of Transaction | Number of Transactions |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Manufacture | 15,000 |
| Transfer | 24,000 |
| Receipt | 24,000 |
| Disassemble | 10,000 |
| Disposal | 50 |
| Total | 73,050 |

For each of the 73,050 transactions identified in Table 2, licensees would be required to complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report using on-line forms, computer-readable format files, fax, mail, or telephone with followup by fax or mail. NRC is uncertain about the number of National Source Tracking Transaction Reports that will be submitted each year for each type of transaction and submission method (e.g., manufacture/on-line forms, manufacture/fax). However, NRC anticipates that the majority of the reports will be submitted by manufacturers and distributors. These entities are expected to report their transaction information electronically using computer-readable format files, given the large volume of transactions they perform. For purposes of this analysis, NRC made the following simplifying assumptions:

- **Manufacture:**
 - Each year, licensees perform 15,000 transactions associated with the manufacture of new nationally tracked sources
 - All reports associated with the manufacture of new nationally tracked sources will be submitted using computer-readable format files
 - Each report will contain information on 100 transactions

- **Transfer and receipt:**
 - Each year, licensees perform 48,000 transactions associated with the transfer and receipt of nationally tracked sources
 - Reports associated with the transfer and receipt of nationally tracked sources will be submitted as follows:
 - 5,288 using on-line forms
 - 42,000 using computer-readable format files
 - 338 by fax
 - 338 by mail
 - 36 by telephone with followup by fax or mail
 - Each report submitted using computer-readable format files will contain information on 100 transactions; reports submitted using any other method will contain information on three transactions
 - The number of transfer reports equals the number of receipt reports

- Disassemble:
 - Each year, licensees perform 10,000 transactions associated with the disassembly of nationally tracked sources
 - All reports associated with the disassembly of nationally tracked sources will be submitted using computer-readable format files
 - Each report will contain information on 100 transactions
- Disposal:
 - Each year, licensees perform 50 transactions associated with the disposal of nationally tracked sources
 - All reports associated with the disposal of nationally tracked sources will be submitted using on-line forms
 - Each report will contain information on three transactions

These assumptions are reflected in Table 3.

Table 3
Estimated Number of National Source Tracking Transaction Reports Submitted Annually, by Type of Transaction and Submission Method

| Type of Transaction | Submission Method | | | | | Total |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----|------|--|-------|
| | On-Line Forms | Computer-Readable Format File | Fax | Mail | Telephone with Followup by Fax or Mail | |
| Manufacture | 0 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150 |
| Transfer | 882 | 210 | 56 | 56 | 6 | 1,210 |
| Receipt | 882 | 210 | 56 | 56 | 6 | 1,210 |
| Disassemble | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 |
| Disposal | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Total | 1,781 | 670 | 112 | 112 | 12 | 2,687 |

3.2.3 Analysis

This subsection discusses the analyses of the quantifiable impacts (i.e., costs) associated with the implementation of the National Source Tracking System. For purposes of this analysis, the impacts under the National Source Tracking System were categorized as follows:

- IT development/maintenance activities
- National Source Tracking System account set-up
- Initial inventory of nationally tracked sources
- National Source Tracking Transaction Reports
- Correction of previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports
- Annual inventory reconciliation of nationally tracked sources
- Nationally tracked source unique serial numbers

The cost assumptions for each of the above impact categories are discussed in the following subsections. Note that all costs presented in this subsection are in 2006 dollars.

3.2.3.1 IT Development/Maintenance Activities

In implementing the regulatory action, NRC expects to perform IT development/maintenance activities. Among other things, these activities include development of the final rule, guidance documents, and licensee training; development, enhancement, and maintenance and operation of the web-based National Source Tracking System.

NRC estimates that, between 2006 and 2008, NRC will incur \$11,700,000 to develop the National Source Tracking System. This value represents both NRC staff and contractor time and effort. NRC anticipates that, of this \$11,700,000, \$3,300,000 will be incurred in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, and \$4,300,000 in FY 2007 and \$4,100,000 in FY 2008.³ Once the system is developed, NRC estimates that approximately \$2,700,000 a year will be expended for the maintenance and operation of the system, beginning in FY 2009.⁴ This includes NRC and contractor effort.

3.2.3.2 National Source Tracking System Account Set-Up

To report nationally tracked source transaction information electronically, a licensee will need to establish an account with the National Source Tracking System. Once an account is established, the licensee will be provided with password information that will allow access to the system.

NRC estimates that, on average, 0.5 hour (30 minutes) of licensee staff time will be required to establish an account with the National Source Tracking System. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff⁵, the cost for establishing an account is estimated to be \$43.50 per licensee (i.e., 0.5 hour x \$87/hour). As shown in Table 1, NRC anticipates that, of the 1,350 licensees with nationally tracked sources, 1,215 (i.e., 1,015 + 200) would report transaction information electronically using on-line forms or computer-readable format files. Thus, industry's total cost for establishing accounts with the National Source Tracking System is estimated to be \$52,853 (i.e., 1,215 licensees x \$43.50/licensee).

Note that, for purposes of this analysis, NRC made the assumption that all licensees reporting nationally tracked source transaction information electronically would establish their accounts

³ FY 2006 covers the period between October 1, 2005 and September 30, 2006. FY 2007 covers the period between October 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007. FY 2008 covers the period between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008.

⁴ FY 2009 covers the period between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009.

⁵ The average hourly labor rate of \$87 is based on NRC staff's best judgment. This hourly labor rate includes costs associated with employee benefits (e.g., health plan). However, it does not include costs associated with overhead (e.g., rent, utilities). Note that this approach was taken because, for purposes of this analysis, NRC is interested in measuring costs associated with incremental workload changes in response to the regulatory action.

with the National Source Tracking System in 2007.

In addition, to account set-up, licensees planning to use the computer-readable format files will also expend some programming effort to establish the ability to report using this method. Some programming will be necessary to collect the information from current computer files. NRC estimates that, on average, 80 hours of licensee staff time will be required to conduct the necessary programming. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the cost of programming is estimated to be \$6960 per licensee (i.e., 80 hours x \$87/hour). As shown in Table 1, NRC estimates that 200 licensees will report transaction information electronically using computer-readable format files. Thus, industry's total programming cost is estimated to be \$1,392,000 (i.e., 200 licensees x \$6960/licensee). It is assumed that this effort would occur in 2007.

Licensees may also expend some effort on training. NRC will be sponsoring workshops for licensees and will also offer training via an on-line demonstration of the system. Each licensee is assumed to expend 4 hours per person to conduct the training and to train 2 individuals in use of the system. Using an average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the cost of training is estimated to be \$696 per licensee (i.e., 8 hours x \$87/hour). Thus, industry's total training cost is estimated to be \$939,600 (i.e., 1350 licensees x \$696 per licensee). It is assumed that this effort would occur in 2007.

3.2.3.3 Initial Inventory of Nationally Tracked Sources

Under existing regulations, licensees are required to conduct an inventory of their sealed sources. The regulatory action will require licensees to report their initial inventory of Category 1 and 2 nationally tracked sources to the National Source Tracking System. Licensees that reported nationally tracked source information to the interim database will only need to verify or update their inventory information. Licensees that did not provide nationally tracked source information to the interim database will need to report their initial inventory of Category 1 nationally tracked sources to the National Source Tracking System by March 15, 2007, and their initial inventory of Category 2 nationally tracked sources by March 30, 2007.

NRC estimates that licensees will require, on average, 0.50 hour (30 minutes) to verify/update or report initial inventory information on their nationally tracked sources.⁶ Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the labor cost for verifying/updating or initially reporting this information is estimated to be \$43.50 per licensee (i.e., 0.50 hour x \$87/hour). As shown in Table 1, NRC estimates that 1,350 licensees will verify/update or initially report inventory information for nationally tracked sources. Thus, the labor cost to licensees is estimated to be \$58,725 (i.e., 1,350 licensees x \$43.50/licensee).

In addition, NRC estimates that licensees will incur materials costs, based on the submission method selected. These costs are described below:

- *On-Line Forms and Computer-Readable Format Files.* NRC considers Internet access

⁶ Note that some licensees may require more or less time to verify/update or initially report inventory information on their nationally tracked sources. The time required by each licensee will depend on licensee-specific factors (e.g., number of sources, licensee's efficiency).

to be a standard business practice. Therefore, for purposes of this analysis, the cost associated with the purchase of Internet access services is not considered an incremental cost to licensees.

- *Fax.* NRC estimates that each of the 64 licensees submitting information by fax (see Table 1) will incur a materials cost of \$0.15 for faxing the information to the National Source Tracking System.⁷ Thus, the materials cost to licensees submitting information by fax is estimated to be \$9.60 (i.e., 64 licensees x \$0.15/licensee).
- *Mail.* NRC estimates that each of the 64 licensees submitting information by mail (see Table 1) will incur a materials cost of \$3.64 for mailing the information to the National Source Tracking System.⁸ Thus, the materials cost to licensees submitting information by mail is estimated to be \$232.96 (i.e., 64 licensees x \$3.64/licensee).
- *Telephone with Followup by Fax or Mail.* NRC estimates that each of the seven licensees submitting information by telephone with followup by fax or mail will incur a materials cost of \$4.16 for making a telephone call and mailing the information to the National Source Tracking System.⁹ Thus, the materials cost to licensees submitting information by telephone with followup by fax or mail is estimated to be \$29.12 (i.e., 7 licensees x \$4.16/licensee).

Based on the above, the materials cost to licensees is estimated to be \$271.68 (i.e., \$0 + \$9.60 + \$232.96 + \$29.12).

In summary, NRC estimates that industry's total one-time cost for verifying/updating or initially reporting nationally tracked source inventory information would be \$58,997 (i.e., \$58,725 + \$271.68). For purposes of this analysis, NRC assumes that all of this *one-time* industry implementation cost will be incurred in 2007.

3.2.3.4 National Source Tracking Transaction Reports

As stated earlier, the regulatory action would require each licensee who manufactures, transfers, receives, disassembles, or disposes a nationally tracked source to complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report (i.e., NRC Form 748).

Following is a discussion of the costs that would be incurred by industry in completing and submitting these reports:

- *Reports Submitted Using On-Line Forms.* NRC estimates that, on average, 10 minutes of licensee staff time will be required to complete and submit a National Source

⁷ Based on the cost of a two-minute State-to-State telephone call.

⁸ Includes costs associated with mailing a five-ounce package by certified mail in a manila envelope (\$1.29 for postage, \$2.30 for the certified-mail fee, and \$0.05 for a manila envelope).

⁹ Includes a cost of \$0.52 for making a seven-minute State-to-State telephone call and a cost of \$3.64 for mailing the inventory information to the National Source Tracking System.

Tracking Transaction Report on-line. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the cost for conducting these activities is estimated to be \$14.50 per report (i.e., [10 minutes/60 minutes] x \$87/hour).¹⁰

As shown in Table 3, NRC estimates that licensees will complete and submit 1,781 reports on-line each year. Thus, the industry's total annual cost for completing and submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports on-line is estimated to be \$25,825 (i.e., 1,781 reports x \$14.50/report).

- *Reports Submitted Using a Computer-Readable Format File.* NRC estimates that, on average, five minutes of licensee staff time will be required to complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report electronically using a computer-readable format file. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the cost for conducting these activities is estimated to be \$7.25 per report (i.e., [5 minutes/60 minutes] x \$87/hour).¹¹

As shown in Table 3, NRC estimates that, each year, licensees would complete and submit 670 reports using computer-readable format files. Thus, the industry's total annual cost for completing and submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports electronically using computer-readable format files is estimated to be \$4,858 (i.e., 670 reports x \$7.25/report).

- *Reports Submitted by Fax.* NRC estimates that, on average, 0.25 hour (15 minutes) of licensee staff time will be required to complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report by fax. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the labor cost for conducting these activities is estimated to be \$21.75 (i.e., 0.25 hours x \$87/hour). In addition, NRC estimates that, on average, licensees would incur a materials cost of \$0.15 for each report they fax to the National Source Tracking System.¹² Thus, the total cost for completing and submitting a report is estimated to be \$21.90 (i.e., \$21.75 + \$0.15).

NRC further estimates that, each year, licensees will complete and submit 112 reports by fax. Thus, the industry's total annual cost for completing and submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports by fax is estimated to be \$2,453 (i.e., 112 reports x \$21.90/report).

¹⁰ NRC considers Internet access to be a standard business practice. Therefore, for purposes of this analysis, the cost associated with the purchase of Internet access services is not considered an incremental cost to licensees.

¹¹ NRC considers Internet access to be a standard business practice. Therefore, for purposes of this analysis, the cost associated with the purchase of Internet access services is not considered an incremental cost to licensees.

¹² Based on the cost of a two-minute State-to-State telephone call.

- *Reports Submitted by Mail.* NRC estimates that, on average, 0.25 hour (15 minutes) of licensee staff time will be required to complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report by mail. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the labor cost for conducting these activities is estimated to be \$21.75 (i.e., 0.25 hours x \$87/hour). In addition, NRC estimates that, on average, licensees will incur a materials cost of \$3.64 for each report they mail to the National Source Tracking System.¹³ Thus, the total cost for completing and submitting a report is estimated to be \$25.39 (i.e., \$21.75 + \$3.64).

NRC further estimates that, each year, licensees will complete and submit 112 reports by mail. Thus, the industry's total annual cost for completing and submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports by mail is estimated to be \$2,844 (i.e., 112 reports x \$25.39/report).

- *Reports Submitted by Telephone with Followup by Fax or Mail.* NRC estimates that, on average, 0.30 hours (18 minutes) of licensee staff time will be required to complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report by telephone with followup by fax or mail.¹⁴ Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the labor cost for conducting these activities is estimated to be \$26.10 (i.e., 0.30 hours x \$87/hour). In addition, NRC estimates that, on average, licensees will incur a cost of \$3.86 for each report they submit by telephone to the National Source Tracking System.¹⁵ Thus, the total cost for completing and submitting a report is estimated to be \$29.96 (i.e., \$26.10 + \$3.86).

NRC further estimates that, each year, licensees will complete and submit 12 reports by telephone. Thus, the industry's total annual cost for completing and submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports by telephone with followup by fax or mail is estimated to be \$360 (i.e., 12 reports x \$29.96/report).

Based on the above, NRC estimates that industry's total annual cost for completing and submitting National Source Tracking Transaction Reports will be \$36,338 (i.e., \$25,825 + \$4,858 + \$2,453 + \$2,844 + \$360). For purposes of this analysis, NRC assumes that this *annual* industry operating cost will be incurred for the first time in 2007.

¹³ Includes costs associated with mailing a five-ounce package by certified mail in a manila envelope (\$1.29 for postage, \$2.30 for the certified-mail fee, and \$0.05 for a manila envelope).

¹⁴ For purposes of this analysis, NRC assumes that licensees submitting information by telephone with followup by fax or mail would spend three minutes more than licensees submitting information by mail or fax. This estimate takes into account the additional time they will need to report the information by telephone.

¹⁵ Includes a cost of \$0.22 for making a three-minute State-to-State telephone call and a cost of \$3.64 for mailing the National Source Tracking Transaction Report.

3.2.3.5 Correction of Previously Filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports

The regulatory action will require licensees to correct any errors in previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports within five business days of the discovery. NRC anticipates that all reports will be corrected and re-submitted using on-line forms.

NRC estimates that, on average, 0.05 hour (3 minutes) of licensee staff time will be required to correct and re-submit a previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Report on-line. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the cost for conducting these activities is estimated to be \$4.35 per report (i.e., 0.05 hour x \$87/hour).¹⁶ As shown in Table 3, NRC estimates that, each year, licensees will submit 2,687 National Source Tracking Transaction Reports. Based on best judgment, NRC estimates that licensees will correct and re-submit one percent of these reports (i.e., 2,687 x 0.01 = 27 reports). Thus, the industry's total annual cost for correcting and re-submitting previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports is estimated to be \$117 (i.e., 26 reports x \$4.35/report).

Note that, for purposes of this analysis, NRC assumes that this *annual* industry operating cost would be incurred for the first time in 2007.

3.2.3.6 Annual Inventory Reconciliation of Nationally Tracked Sources

Under existing regulations, licensees are required to conduct inventories of their sealed sources. The regulatory action will require each licensee to reconcile and verify its inventory of nationally tracked sources against the data in the National Source Tracking System. This verification would be conducted during the month of January each year. As part of the verification process, licensees will be required to resolve any discrepancies between the National Source Tracking System and their actual inventory by filing the necessary National Source Tracking Transaction Report(s).

NRC estimates that licensees will require, on average, one hour to reconcile inventory information on their nationally tracked sources.¹⁷ Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the labor cost for reconciling and documenting this information is estimated to be \$87 per licensee (i.e., 1 hour x \$87/hour). As shown in Table 1, NRC estimates that 1,350 licensees will reconcile and verify inventory information for nationally tracked sources. Thus, the labor cost to licensees is estimated to be \$117,450 (i.e., 1,350 licensees x \$87/licensee).

In addition, NRC estimates that licensees will incur materials costs, based on the submission method selected. These costs are described below:

¹⁶ NRC considers Internet access to be a standard business practice. Therefore, for purposes of this analysis, the cost associated with the purchase of Internet access services is not considered an incremental cost to licensees.

¹⁷ Note that some licensees may require more or less time to reconcile and verify inventory information on their nationally tracked sources. The time required by each licensee will depend on licensee-specific factors (e.g., number of sources, licensee's efficiency).

- *On-Line Forms and Computer-Readable Format Files.* NRC considers Internet access to be a standard business practice. Therefore, for purposes of this analysis, the cost associated with the purchase of Internet access services is not considered an incremental cost to licensees.
- *Fax.* NRC estimates that each of the 64 licensees submitting information by fax (see Table 1) will incur a materials cost of \$0.15 for faxing the information to the National Source Tracking System.¹⁸ Thus, the materials cost to licensees submitting information by fax is estimated to be \$9.60 (i.e., 64 licensees x \$0.15/licensee).
- *Mail.* NRC estimates that each of the 64 licensees submitting information by mail (see Table 1) will incur a materials cost of \$3.64 for mailing the information to the National Source Tracking System.¹⁹ Thus, the materials cost to licensees submitting information by mail is estimated to be \$232.96 (i.e., 64 licensees x \$3.64/licensee).
- *Telephone with Followup by Fax or Mail.* NRC estimates that each of the seven licensees submitting information by telephone with followup by fax or mail will incur a materials cost of \$4.16 for making a telephone call and mailing the information to the National Source Tracking System.²⁰ Thus, the materials cost to licensees submitting information by telephone with followup by fax or mail is estimated to be \$29.12 (i.e., 7 licensees x \$4.16/licensee).

Based on the above, the materials cost to licensees is estimated to be \$271.68 (i.e., \$0 + \$9.60 + \$232.96 + \$29.12).

In summary, NRC estimates that industry's total annual cost for reconciling and verifying its inventory of nationally tracked sources will be \$117,722 (i.e., \$117,450 + \$271.68). For purposes of this analysis, NRC assumes that this *annual* industry operating cost will be incurred for the first time in 2008.

3.2.3.7 Nationally Tracked Source Unique Serial Numbers

The regulatory action will require each licensee who manufactures a nationally tracked source after the effective date of the rule to assign a unique serial number to each nationally tracked source. Serial numbers may be composed only of alpha-numeric characters.

NRC estimates that, on average, two minutes of licensee staff time will be required to assign a unique serial number to a nationally tracked source. Using an estimated average labor rate of \$87 per hour for licensee staff, the cost for assigning a serial number is estimated to be \$2.90 per source (i.e., [2 minutes/60 minutes] x \$87/hour). NRC estimates that 15,000 nationally

¹⁸ Based on the cost of a two-minute State-to-State telephone call.

¹⁹ Includes costs associated with mailing a five-ounce package by certified mail in a manila envelope (\$1.29 for postage, \$2.30 for the certified-mail fee, and \$0.05 for a manila envelope).

²⁰ Includes a cost of \$0.52 for making a seven-minute State-to-State telephone call and a cost of \$3.64 for mailing the inventory information to the National Source Tracking System.

tracked sources are manufactured each year. Thus, the industry's total *annual* cost for assigning unique serial numbers to nationally tracked sources is estimated to be \$43,500 (i.e., 15,000 sources x \$2.90/source), beginning in 2007.

3.2.3.8 Inspection Costs

NRC and Agreement States will conduct inspections of the National Source Tracking System reporting requirements. These inspections would be included as part of routine inspections. NRC estimates between one half to one hour would be needed to conduct the inspection for National Source Tracking. Thus, the total effort would be \$30,450 (i.e., \$87 per hour x 1 hour per licensee x 350 licensees) for NRC and \$87,000 (i.e., \$87 per hour x 1 hour per licensee x 1000 licensees) for the Agreement States for 2008. In later years, the inspection effort would be based on reporting discrepancies, therefore, beginning in 2009, the cost would be \$10,500 for NRC and \$29,000 for Agreement States.

3.2.3.8 Agreement State Costs

Agreement States will need to issue legally binding requirements to their licensees to require the licensees to report to the National Source Tracking System. This could be done through promulgating a comparable rule, issuing orders, or adding or revising individual license conditions. It may involve more than one activity. The final rule is Compatibility Category "B"; therefore, an Agreement State should adopt program elements essentially identical to those of NRC. The NRC program elements in this category are those that apply to activities that have direct and significant transboundary implications. National Source Tracking System is a national system and every one must begin reporting at the same time and using the same requirements for the system to be useful. Since each of the 34 Agreement States may choose different implementation mechanisms and have different numbers of licensees, it is difficult to estimate the costs for each Agreement State. The legally binding requirements need to be essentially word-for-word compatible, the process should be relatively simple. NRC estimates that on average, each Agreement State would expend 0.2 FTE at \$76,000/FTE for each state. By the time the rule is published, there will be 34 Agreement States, therefore, the total cost for all Agreement States would be approximately \$516,800.

3.3 Results

Under the National Source Tracking System alternative (Option 2), NRC will require licensees to report information on the manufacture, transfer, receipt, disassembly, and disposal of nationally tracked sources.

Using the cost assumptions discussed in Section 3.2 of this document, NRC staff estimated the incremental costs to industry and NRC under Option 2. These costs were estimated for the years 2006 through 2016. All costs incurred in the future were calculated in 2006 dollars using discount rates of 7 and 3 percent. Discounting all costs to year 2006 adjusts for the fact that costs incurred at different points in time are not equivalent. The results are presented in Table 4.

As shown in Table 4, the net present value under Option 2, using a 7 percent discount rate, is estimated to be a total cost of about \$29,300,000. Using a 3 percent discount rate, the net present value is estimated to be a total cost of about \$34,000,000.

NRC staff believes that the expected qualitative values contribute substantially to the benefits of the National Source Tracking System. These qualitative values include:

- *Improved Security for Nationally Tracked Sources.* The National Source Tracking System is expected to result in improved accountability and controls over nationally tracked sources. This is expected to improve public health (accident/event) and avert potential offsite property damage and costs by decreasing the risk of a security-related event involving nationally tracked sources.
- *Improved Understanding of the Location of Nationally Tracked Sources.* Information contained in the National Source Tracking System will improve the information available to NRC, as well as other government entities (e.g., Department of Homeland Security, Agreement States), concerning the locations of nationally tracked sources.
- *Improved Regulatory Efficiency.* The establishment of a national program to monitor the location of nationally tracked sources would improve regulatory efficiency by: (1) increasing accountability among all parties associated with a nationally tracked source transaction, (2) responding to a recommendation in the IAEA's Code of Conduct, and (3) responding to the statutory mandate of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- *Enhanced Ability to Promote and Maintain the Common Defense and Security.* Information contained in the National Source Tracking System will allow NRC to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources and, thus, improve accountability and controls over them. Consequently, the National Source Tracking System should enhance NRC's ability to maintain and promote the common defense and security.
- *Increased Public Confidence.* Information contained in the National Source Tracking System will allow NRC to better monitor the location of nationally tracked sources. This is expected to result in increased public confidence in NRC's regulation of inventories of radioactive materials that could be used in the production of RDDs and REDs.

Table 4
Present Value of the Costs Under the National Source Tracking System Alternative (Option 2):
2005 - 2016 ^a
(2005 dollars)

| Category | 7% Discount Rate | | | | 3% | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | Costs to Industry | Costs to Agreement States | Costs to NRC | Total Costs | Costs to Industry | Cost to Agreement States |
| IT Development/Maintenance Activities | \$0 | \$0 | \$24,981,811 | \$24,981,811 | \$0 | \$0 |
| National Source Tracking System Account Set-Up | \$49,395 | \$0 | \$0 | \$49,395 | \$51,314 | \$0 |
| Licensee Programming | \$1,300,935 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,300,935 | \$1,351,456 | \$0 |
| Licensee Training | \$878,131 | \$0 | \$0 | \$878,131 | \$912,233 | \$0 |
| Initial Inventory of Nationally Tracked Sources | \$55,137 | \$0 | \$0 | \$55,137 | \$57,279 | \$0 |
| National Source Tracking Transaction Reports | \$255,223 | \$0 | \$0 | \$255,223 | \$309,971 | \$0 |
| Correction of Previously Filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports | \$822 | \$0 | \$0 | \$822 | \$998 | \$0 |
| Annual Inventory Reconciliation of Nationally Tracked Sources | \$716,810 | \$0 | \$0 | \$716,810 | \$889,899 | \$0 |
| Nationally Tracked Source Unique Serial Numbers | \$305,526 | \$0 | \$0 | \$305,526 | \$371,064 | \$0 |
| Inspection Cost | \$0 | \$227,241 | \$79,534 | \$79,534 | \$0 | \$273,000 |
| Agreement State Regulation Development | \$0 | \$459,809 | \$0 | \$459,809 | \$0 | \$490,000 |
| Total | \$3,561,978 | \$687,050 | \$25,061,346 | \$29,310,374 | \$3,944,213 | \$764,000 |

^a Table includes rounding error.

4. Backfit Analysis

The regulatory action includes new reporting requirements and does not impose any backfits on systems, structures, or components of a facility. That is, the regulatory action does not contain any provisions involving backfitting, as defined at 10 CFR 50.109, 70.76, 72.62, and 76.76. Therefore, a backfit analysis is not required.

5. Decision Rationale

For the two regulatory alternatives identified, the values and impacts have been considered. Option 2, the National Source Tracking System alternative, was determined to be the preferred option because it is expected to: (1) enhance NRC's ability to promote and maintain the common defense and security, (2) improve understanding of the location of nationally tracked sources, (3) improve regulatory efficiency (by increasing accountability among all parties associated with a nationally tracked source transaction), (4) improve public health and safety, and (5) increase public confidence. NRC believes that the incremental costs to licensees and NRC under Option 2 are justified because the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires NRC to issue regulations for a source tracking system. Option 1 or no action is not a viable action and merely provides the baseline.

6. Implementation

The regulatory action will be enacted through a Final Rule. No impediments to implementation of the recommended alternative have been identified. The Final Rule implements United States policy to have a National Source Tracking System for Category 1 and Category 2 sources.

The regulatory action will require licensees who manufacture, transfer, receive, disassemble, or dispose of a nationally tracked source to: (1) report their initial inventory of Category 1 and/or 2 nationally tracked sources to the National Source Tracking System; (2) complete and submit a National Source Tracking Transaction Report after each transaction; (3) correct any errors in previously filed National Source Tracking Transaction Reports within five business days of the discovery; and (4) reconcile the inventories of nationally tracked sources they possess against the data in the National Source Tracking System on an annual basis. In addition, licensees who manufacture nationally tracked sources after the effective date of the rule will be required to assign a unique serial number to each nationally tracked source.

NRC is currently in the process of developing the National Source Tracking System and expects to finalize its development by spring 2007. When completely operational, the National Source Tracking System will be a web-based system that will allow licensees to easily meet the reporting requirements.