

April 7, 2006

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The proposed U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rule to implement Section 651(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAcT) was forwarded to the Commission on March 29, 2006. The staff's paper to the Commission, which includes the proposed rule, and the draft *Federal Register* (FR) Notice, is now available for advanced review on NRC's web site at: http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/library?source=*&library=narm_lib&file=*&st=ipcr.

The proposed rule was developed over the last six months by a working group composed of staff members from NRC and State radiation control programs. The Commission has requested a public briefing on Section 651, along with Sections 652 and 656 of the EPAcT on May 15, 2006. Stakeholders, including representatives of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., and the Organization of Agreement States, Inc., are expected to participate in the briefing. Once the Commission provides its final direction to the staff, it is expected that the proposed rule would be published in the FR, followed by a 45-day public comment period. The EPAcT requires the rule to be effective February 7, 2007 (18 months after the Act was signed on August 8, 2005).

If you have any questions on this correspondence, please contact me or the individual named below.

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