

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

EA-06-155

ALL LICENSEES IDENTIFIED IN ATTACHMENT 1
AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO SEEK OR
OBTAIN ACCESS TO SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION
DESCRIBED HEREIN

**ORDER IMPOSING FINGERPRINTING
AND CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK REQUIREMENTS
FOR ACCESS TO SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION
(EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY)**

I

The Licensees identified in Attachment 1¹ to this Order hold licenses issued in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) or Agreement States, authorizing them to engage in an activity subject to regulation by the Commission or Agreement States. On August 8, 2005, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) was enacted. Section 652 of the EPAAct amended Section 149 of the AEA to require fingerprinting and a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) identification and criminal history records check of any person who is to be permitted to have access to Safeguards Information (SGI)². The NRC's implementation of this requirement cannot await the completion of the SGI rulemaking, which is underway, because the EPAAct fingerprinting and criminal history check requirements for access to SGI were immediately effective upon enactment of the EPAAct. Although the EPAAct permits the Commission by rule to except certain categories of individuals from the fingerprinting requirement, which the Commission has done (see 10 C.F.R. § 73.59, 71 Fed. Reg. 33,989 (June 13, 2006)), it is

¹Attachment 1 contains sensitive information and will not be released to the public.

²Safeguards Information is a form of sensitive, unclassified, security-related information that the Commission has the authority to designate and protect under section 147 of the AEA.

unlikely that licensee employees are excepted from the fingerprinting requirement by the “fingerprinting relief” rule. Individuals relieved from fingerprinting and criminal history checks under the relief rule include Federal, State, and local officials and law enforcement personnel; Agreement State inspectors who conduct security inspections on behalf of the NRC; members of Congress and certain employees of members of Congress or Congressional Committees, and representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or certain foreign government organizations. In addition, individuals who have a favorably-decided U.S. Government criminal history check within the last five (5) years, and individuals who have active federal security clearances (provided in either case that they make available the appropriate documentation), have satisfied the EPAAct fingerprinting requirement and need not be fingerprinted again. Therefore, in accordance with Section 149 of the AEA, as amended by the EPAAct, the Commission is imposing additional requirements for access to SGI, as set forth by this Order, so that affected licensees can obtain and grant access to SGI. This Order also imposes requirements for access to SGI by any person³, from any person, whether or not a Licensee, Applicant, or Certificate Holder of the Commission or Agreement States.

Subsequent to the terrorist events of September 11, 2001, the NRC issued Orders requiring certain entities to implement Additional Security Measures (ASM) or Compensatory Measures (CM) for certain radioactive materials. The requirements imposed by these Orders, and certain measures licensees have developed to comply with the Orders, were designated by the NRC as SGI. For some materials licensees, the storage and handling requirements for the SGI have been modified from the existing 10 C.F.R. Part 73 SGI requirements for reactors and

³ Person means (1) any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, group, government agency other than the Commission or the Department of Energy, except that the Department of Energy shall be considered a person with respect to those facilities of the Department of Energy specified in section 202 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (88 Stat. 1244), any State or any political subdivision of, or any political entity within a State, any foreign government or nation or any political subdivision of any such government or nation, or other entity; and (2) any legal successor, representative, agent, or agency of the foregoing.

fuel cycle facilities that require a higher level of protection; such SGI is designated as Safeguards Information--Modified Handling (SGI-M). However, the information subject to the SGI-M handling and protection requirements is SGI, and licensees and other persons who seek or obtain access to such SGI are subject to this Order.

II

The Commission has broad statutory authority to protect and prohibit the unauthorized disclosure of SGI. Section 147 of the AEA grants the Commission explicit authority to issue such Orders as necessary to prohibit the unauthorized disclosure of SGI. Furthermore, Section 652 of the EPAct amended Section 149 of the AEA to require fingerprinting and an FBI identification and a criminal history records check of each individual who seeks access to SGI. In addition, as required by existing Orders, which remain in effect, no person may have access to SGI unless the person has an established need-to-know and satisfies the trustworthy and reliability requirements of those Orders.

In order to provide assurance that the Licensees identified in Attachment 1 are implementing appropriate measures to comply with the fingerprinting and criminal history check requirements for access to SGI, all Licensees identified in Attachment 1 shall implement the requirements of this Order. In addition, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.202, I find that in light of the common defense and security matters identified above, which warrant the issuance of this Order, the public health, safety and interest require that this Order be effective immediately.

III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 81, 147, 149, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182 and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 C.F.R.

§ 2.202, 10 C.F.R. Parts 30 and 73, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**, THAT ALL LICENSEES IDENTIFIED IN ATTACHMENT 1 TO THIS ORDER AND ALL OTHER PERSONS WHO SEEK OR OBTAIN ACCESS TO SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS ORDER.

- A. 1. No person may have access to Safeguards Information unless that person has a need-to-know the SGI, has been fingerprinted or who has a favorably-decided FBI identification and criminal history records check, and satisfies all other applicable requirements for access to SGI. Fingerprinting and the FBI identification and criminal history records check are not required, however, for any person who is relieved from that requirement by 10 C.F.R. § 73.59 (71 Fed. Reg. 33,989 (June 13, 2006)), or who has a favorably-decided U.S. Government criminal history check within the last five (5) years, or who has an active federal security clearance, provided in either case that the appropriate documentation is made available to the Licensee's NRC-approved reviewing official.
2. No person may have access to any Safeguards Information if the NRC has determined, based on fingerprinting and an FBI identification and criminal history records check, that the person may not have access to SGI.
- B. No person may provide SGI to any other person except in accordance with Condition III.A. above. Prior to providing SGI to any person, a copy of this Order shall be provided to that person.

C. All Licensees identified in Attachment 1 to this Order shall comply with the following requirements:

1. The Licensee shall, within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this Order, establish and maintain a fingerprinting program that meets the requirements of Attachment 2 to this Order.

2. The Licensee shall, within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this Order, submit the fingerprints of one (1) individual who currently has access to SGI in accordance with the previously-issued NRC Orders, who continues to need access to Safeguards Information, and who the Licensee nominates as the "reviewing official" for determining access to SGI by other individuals. The NRC will determine whether this individual (or any subsequent reviewing official) may have access to SGI and, therefore, will be permitted to serve as the Licensee's reviewing official.⁴ The Licensee may, at the same time or later, submit the fingerprints of other individuals to whom the Licensee seeks to grant access to SGI. Fingerprints shall be submitted and reviewed in accordance with the procedures described in Attachment 2 of this Order.

3. The Licensee may allow any individual who currently has access to SGI in accordance with the previously-issued NRC Orders to continue to have access to previously-designated SGI without being fingerprinted, pending a decision by the NRC-approved reviewing official (based on fingerprinting, an FBI criminal history records check and a trustworthy and reliability determination) that the individual may continue to have access to SGI. The Licensee shall make determinations on continued access to SGI by November 20, 2006, in part on the results of the fingerprinting and criminal

⁴The NRC's determination of this individual's access to SGI in accordance with the process described in Enclosure 3 to the transmittal letter of this Order is an administrative determination that is outside the scope of this Order.

history check, for those individuals that were previously granted access to SGI before the issuance of this Order.

4. The Licensee shall, in writing, within **twenty (20) days** of the date of this Order, notify the Commission, (1) if it is unable to comply with any of the requirements described in the Order, including Attachment 2, or (2) if compliance with any of the requirements is unnecessary in its specific circumstances. The notification shall provide the Licensee's justification for seeking relief from or variation of any specific requirement.

Licensee responses to C.1., C.2., C.3., and C.4. above shall be submitted to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. In addition, Licensee responses shall be marked as "Security-Related Information - Withhold Under 10 C.F.R. 2.390."

The Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, may in writing, relax or rescind any of the above conditions upon demonstration of good cause by the Licensee.

IV.

In accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 2.202, the Licensee must, and any other person adversely affected by this Order may, submit an answer to this Order, and may request a hearing on this Order, within twenty (20) days of the date of this Order. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to request a hearing. A request for extension of time in which to submit an answer or request a hearing must be made in writing to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and include a statement of good cause for the extension. The answer may consent to this Order. Unless the answer consents to this Order, the answer shall, in writing and under oath or affirmation, specifically set forth the matters of fact and law on which the Licensee or other person adversely affected relies and the reasons as to why the Order should not have been issued. Any answer or request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Secretary, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, Washington, DC 20555. Copies also shall be sent to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, to the Assistant General Counsel for Materials Litigation and Enforcement at the same address, and to the Licensee if the answer or hearing request is by a person other than the Licensee. Because of possible delays in delivery of mail to United States Government offices, it is requested that answers and requests for hearing be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commission either by means of facsimile transmission to 301-415-1101 or by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov and also to the Office of the General Counsel either by means of facsimile transmission to 301-415-3725 or by e-mail to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov. If a person other than the Licensee requests a hearing, that person shall set forth with particularity the manner in which his/her interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309.

If a hearing is requested by the Licensee or a person whose interest is adversely affected, the Commission will issue an Order designating the time and place of any hearing. If a hearing is held, the issue to be considered at such hearing shall be whether this Order should be sustained.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.202(c)(2)(i), the Licensee may, in addition to demanding a hearing, at the time the answer is filed or sooner, move the presiding officer to set aside the immediate effectiveness of the Order on the ground that the Order, including the need for

immediate effectiveness, is not based on adequate evidence but on mere suspicion, unfounded allegations, or error. In the absence of any request for hearing, or written approval of an extension of time in which to request a hearing, the provisions as specified above in Section III shall be final twenty (20) days from the date of this Order without further order or proceedings. If an extension of time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the provisions as specified above in Section III shall be final when the extension expires if a hearing request has not been received. AN ANSWER OR A REQUEST FOR HEARING SHALL NOT STAY THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDER.

Dated this 21st day of August 2006

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Jack R. Strosnider, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Attachments:

1. List of Applicable Licensees
2. Requirements for Fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks of Individuals When Licensee's Reviewing Official is Determining Access to Safeguards Information