

## CONTRACTOR DRUG TESTING PROGRAM OPTIONS - PROS AND CONS

NRC does not currently require that all badged or unbadged contractor employees be included in the Federal random drug testing program since they are not NRC employees. However, under contract provisions, NRC currently requires random drug testing for its contractors who operate government vehicles, carry weapons and perform pre-assignment drug testing for the personnel security contractor. Options for a contractor drug testing program are below:

**Option 1:** Maintain the current practice for NRC contracts that currently include provisions for drug testing (e.g., drivers and those who carry weapons).

**Pro:**

No change to current practice or resource requirements is necessary.

**Con:**

Badged and unbadged contractors who wish to obtain unescorted access to nuclear power plants are currently being tested under the licensee's drug testing program. This eliminates a degree of independence from the licensee programs for NRC contractors performing inspections and oversight functions.

**Option 2:** Require pre-assignment and random drug testing for badged or unbadged contractors in sensitive positions (i.e., those that operate government vehicles and carry weapons as well as those that require unescorted access to nuclear power plants or access to safeguards and/or classified information). Any badged or unbadged contractor who admit to illegal drug use, whether in a sensitive position or not, would also be subject to pre-assignment and random drug testing.

**Pros:**

1. Badged or unbadged contractor employees in sensitive positions or those who admit to illegal drug use would be subject to drug testing.
2. Consistent with 10 CFR 26.

**Con:**

NRC would incur higher contracting costs to fund contractor drug testing and there would be resource implications due to the requirement to incorporate provisions for drug testing into pertinent NRC contracts and manage an NRC contractor drug testing program. The resource requirements would be expected to increase by approximately \$190K.