

From: Lee Ann Feeley <Lee.Feeley@student.Mercer.edu>
To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
Date: Sat, Feb 9, 2008 4:06 PM
Subject: Comment to proposed revision

Please find attached comments to the proposed rules regarding the transportation of radioactive material.

Thank you,

Erle J. Newton, Lee Ann Feeley

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We are students at Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law currently enrolled in an Administrative Law course, and we provide comments, as concerned citizens, to the proposed rules concerning the transportation of Radioactive Material in Quantities of Concern.

We applaud and support the efforts to revise and update security requirements for the shipment of radioactive materials in quantities of concern. It is clear that the terror attacks on September 11, 2001 have caused this county to reconsider procedures and safeguards dealing with the potential effects terrorists could have on the general population. Radioactive materials, given their potential for destruction if placed in the wrong hands, pose a unique and serious threat to national security.

Coordination with local and state law enforcement should be heavily considered. The first line of defense will be the law enforcement agencies responsible for the jurisdictions through which radioactive material will travel. Notification to the law enforcement agencies of shipment schedules through their jurisdictions will ensure that response to any crises or security breaches will be made more quickly. Rapid and appropriate response at the local level could dramatically reduce the level of danger of compromise of radioactive material. Coordination with local and state law enforcement should include communication capabilities between personnel shipping the material and the dispatch centers controlling law enforcement entities. Further, education at the first-responder level is the most effective way to ensure that incidents are contained in the most expedient and effective manner, and this rapid containment is perhaps the most important element of keeping the effects of such an incident from becoming disastrous.

Improving this vital first-response should be a major consideration of the current revision.

In response to question two, the NRC should retain its authority to regulate the transportation of radioactive material under the common defense. We take this position with the assumption that fewer agencies will result in more efficient response to a crisis. There will be one authority, the NRC, to which the states may look for crisis aversion and management.

In Response to question three, private companies currently provide GPS monitoring systems for businesses operating a fleet of vehicles. The programs not only offer location data, they also monitor and record other data such as speed of vehicles. The programs are also designed to alert the program operator when one of the equipped vehicles leaves its normal area of operation. This tool would be invaluable in ensuring the safe transport of radioactive materials. If private businesses can operate such systems, we have no doubt that the NRC, in conjunction with the DOD, can develop a first-rate GPS monitoring system to provide for the common defense in regard to radioactive materials.

Thank you for considering our comment.

Erle J. Newton, Lee Ann Feeley