



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOP FEB. 22 ON REGULATION OF URANIUM CONVERSION/DECONVERSION FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public workshop Feb. 22 in Rockville, Md., to discuss future regulation of new uranium conversion and deconversion facilities.

The workshop will provide agency stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the possession thresholds for uranium and hydrogen fluoride that would place a facility under NRC regulation. The NRC staff has proposed thresholds of 10,000 kilograms of uranium hexafluoride or uranium tetrafluoride, and/or 1,000 pounds of hydrogen fluoride as the appropriate levels. Any facility possessing or capable of processing these amounts would be regulated by the NRC.

The Commission decided last year that future facilities for converting uranium oxide to uranium hexafluoride – an important step in the nuclear fuel cycle – or “deconverting” depleted uranium hexafluoride to an oxide should be licensed and regulated by the NRC, even if they are to be located in an Agreement State. There are 34 states that regulate radioactive materials under agreements with the NRC.

Regulation of these facilities by the NRC is appropriate because of the complex procedures and large amounts of hazardous materials used, as well as national defense and security concerns.

The Commission directed the agency staff to develop new regulations to impose “specific, risk-informed requirements” for these facilities similar to those in place for uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel fabrication licensees. The Commission also directed the staff to conduct the public workshop to solicit stakeholder views on the appropriate possession thresholds for NRC regulation.

The workshop will be held in the NRC Auditorium at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, in Rockville, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 22. Persons who wish to attend, participate by telephone bridge line, or make a presentation should contact Michael Raddatz, Senior Project Manager, well in advance at (301) 492-3108 or by e-mail at mgr@nrc.gov.

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