



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. 09-148

September 8, 2009

NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE OVERSIGHT PROCESS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to its oversight process for nuclear fuel cycle facilities.

The NRC is considering significant revisions to processes for overseeing the safety and security of uranium conversion, enrichment and nuclear fuel fabrication facilities. Current oversight consists mainly of inspections, enforcement and periodic assessments based on inspection findings. The revised oversight process would improve inspection and assessment so that NRC conclusions would be more closely based on risk and more understandable to members of the public.

“I am pleased that we are assessing our oversight of fuel cycle facilities,” NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko said. “I support the staff’s goal of improving transparency and predictability in this area.”

In a *Federal Register* notice published Sept. 3 ([74 FR 45657](#)), the agency described the proposed revisions and requested public comment on a number of specific questions regarding the oversight framework (such as performance indicators and significance determination), baseline inspections, the assessment process, and implementation. These are similar to the components of the agency’s reactor oversight process for nuclear power plants.

Comments will be accepted through Nov. 2. They may be submitted via the federal rulemaking Web site at www.Regulations.gov or by mail to Michael T. Lesar, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWB-05-B10M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. Comments may also be faxed to (301) 492-3446.

In addition, the agency staff on Aug. 28 made several documents relating to the revised fuel cycle oversight process available to industry stakeholders for their comments. These documents are available in the NRC’s online ADAMS document

system at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> by entering accession number ML092380069 in the search window.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.