



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES PROPOSED RULE ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE SHIPMENTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations to require licensees to notify federally recognized tribal governments in advance of shipments of irradiated reactor fuel and certain other nuclear wastes through tribal reservations.

Current NRC regulations require licensees to inform state governments of certain shipments of spent nuclear fuel and other nuclear wastes that pass through or across state boundaries. These advance notification requirements were established in 1982. The agency initiated rulemaking to include tribal governments in this requirement, but that process was deferred following the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Under the proposed rule, published today in the *Federal Register*, to receive the advance notifications tribal governments would need to declare that they would like to receive the information and certify that they will protect any safeguards information contained in the notifications. If a tribe opts to receive advance notifications, it would be obligated to protect the schedule and itineraries of the shipments to comply with NRC regulations on the protection of safeguards information.

The text of the proposed rule is available through the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fedreg/notices/2010.html>. Public comments will be accepted on the proposed rule until Feb. 22, 2011. Comments may be submitted through the federal government's rulemaking portal, <http://www.regulations.gov>, using Docket ID NRC-1999-0005. They may be mailed to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. Or they may be e-mailed to Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov. Commenters are asked to include Docket ID NRC-1999-0005 in the subject line.

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