

June 23, 2011

STATE LIAISON OFFICERS
ALL RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

INFORMATION REQUEST: STATE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS
AROUND NRC-LICENSED FACILITIES (FSME-11-056)

Purpose: This is a request for information on the extent of the State's independent environmental monitoring programs around U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensed nuclear facilities including nuclear power facilities, uranium recovery, and other fuel cycle facilities. The information will be presented to the NRC-sponsored National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study committee for the "Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations near Nuclear Facilities: Phase 1" study during their July 20, 2011, meeting in Los Angeles, California. In addition, the NRC staff finds value in understanding from a national perspective the extent of State environmental monitoring programs in the country and how this information may augment national radiation monitoring efforts (e.g., when responding to public inquiries about trace levels of radioactivity detected in the United States from the Japanese Fukushima-Daichii facility accident). A response to the brief survey attached is requested within 30 days to the point-of-contact listed below.

Background: Nuclear facilities licensed by NRC sometimes release very small amounts of radioactivity during normal operations. NRC regulations ensure that plant operators monitor and control these releases to meet very strict radiation dose limits, and licensees must publicly report these releases to the agency. Some communities are concerned about the potential impact of these releases on the health of citizens living near those nuclear facilities.

*This information request has previously been approved by OMB 3150-0029 and was resubmitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review of continued approval of information collection. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is about 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

*This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0163, expiration 01/31/2013. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is about 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0163), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

To help address these concerns, NRC has asked the NAS to perform a state-of-the-art study on cancer risk for populations surrounding NRC-licensed nuclear facilities. NRC is seeking the expertise of NAS to update the 1990 U.S. National Institutes of Health - National Cancer Institute (NCI) report, "*Cancer in Populations Living Near Nuclear Facilities.*" NRC uses the 1990 NCI report as a primary resource when communicating with the public about cancer mortality risk in counties that contain or are adjacent to nuclear power facilities. The 1990 NCI report concluded that cancer mortality rates were not elevated in these populations.

Discussion: In Phase 1 of the new NAS cancer study, NRC requested that NAS consider a review of effluents and offsite doses from these facilities when recommending a study design. The information from this request will help the committee understand what additional environmental monitoring of these facilities is occurring above and beyond the NRC regulatory requirements. In Phase 1, NAS will determine whether a technically defensible approach to meet the goals of the study request is feasible. If feasible, the approach will be developed using scientifically sound processes for evaluating cancer risk that could be associated with nuclear facilities. The result of this Phase 1 study will be used to inform the design of the cancer risk assessment that will be carried out in a future Phase 2 study.

All responses and questions with respect to this correspondence should be directed to the individual named below.

POINT OF CONTACT: Dr. Terry Brock
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/RA/

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Enclosure:
Survey

**Survey: Independent Environmental Monitoring
Programs of NRC-licensed Facilities**

Does your State have an independent environmental monitoring program surrounding NRC-licensed facilities? Yes/No?

- a) If so, please list the NRC-licensed facilities that have been either previously or currently monitored. Facilities of interest include nuclear power, uranium recovery facilities, and other fuel cycle.

- b) Do you monitor the following?
 - 1) Direct radiation? Yes / No
 - 2) Gaseous effluents? Yes / No
 - 3) Liquid effluents? Yes / No
 - 4) Vegetation? Yes / No
 - 5) Seafood? Yes / No
 - 6) Other animals? Yes / No

- c) Please provide a brief description of your program. Please include the locations of where monitoring occurs (e.g., at the facility boundary, 10 miles away from the site, etc.) What is the frequency of monitoring? Are the results of the monitoring published in a publically available report on the Internet? If so, please provide the Web address.

- d) Designated State Point of Contact.

ENCLOSURE