

FFDProgram Resource

From: FFDProgram Resource
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:49 AM
Subject: [REDACTED]
Response to your inquiry to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your inquiry. Under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 26, a licensee employee may be referred to a licensed or certified psychologist for a determination of fitness in accordance with 10 CFR 26.189. Additionally, employees with certain job functions may be required to undergo a psychological assessment in accordance with 10 CFR 73.56(e) as part of the licensee's access authorization program.

In neither of these cases does the NRC register, license, nor maintain a list of qualified providers. In particular, 10 CFR 26.189(a)(2) and (3) state that:

- (2) A clinical psychologist may determine the fitness of an individual who may have experienced mental illness, significant emotional stress, or cognitive or psychological impairment from causes unrelated to substance abuse, but may not be qualified to assess the fitness of an individual who may have a substance abuse disorder, unless the psychologist is also [a substance abuse expert (SAE)].
- (3) A psychiatrist may determine the fitness of an individual who is taking psychoactive medications consistently with one or more valid prescription(s), but may not be qualified to assess potential impairment attributable to substance abuse, unless the psychiatrist has had specific training to diagnose and treat substance abuse disorders.

To be considered an SAE, the provider must meet the requirements of 10 CFR 26.187. The SAE is required, under 10 CFR 26.187(f), to maintain documentation showing that he or she currently meets the requirements of 10 CFR 26.187.

Finally, for psychological assessments, 10 CFR 73.56(e)(1) and (2) state:

- (1) A licensed psychologist or psychiatrist with the appropriate training and experience shall conduct the psychological assessment.
- (2) The psychological assessment must be conducted in accordance with the applicable ethical principles for conducting such assessments established by the American Psychological Association or American Psychiatric Association.

These regulations can be accessed via the NRC's public website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/cfr/>

Additional information on Access Authorization and Fitness for Duty is also available from the "Operational Experience" portion of the NRC's public website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience.html>.

The NRC hopes that the information above answers your question. Please feel free to contact the agency should you require any additional information.

Regards,

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