



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-001

November 18, 2015

Shreya Kuchipudi  
20826 Confidence Ct.  
Ashburn, VA 20147

Dear Shreya,

I received your letter asking for information on how the NRC determines whether nuclear materials are okay for use, and on harmful radioactive material. I am enclosing a brochure that provides a broad overview of how radioactive materials are used and the NRC's role in ensuring they are used safely.

Our website (<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/licensing.html>) describes the process for determining whether nuclear materials are okay to use:

A company that wishes to obtain a license to use nuclear materials must submit an application to NRC. This application must demonstrate how the use of these materials will meet the safety requirements in NRC regulations found in 10 CFR Parts 19-21 and 30-39. Applicants must provide information on the type, form, and intended quantity of available facilities, qualifications of users, and radiation protection programs.

NRC reviews the application according to procedures and criteria documented in our Standard Review Plans for these license applications. If NRC approves the application, a license is issued. The license may contain certain conditions imposed by the NRC and agreed to by the licensee.

Applications for possession and use are submitted to NRC's regional offices while applications for distribution of consumer products are submitted to NRC Headquarters. Each region is responsible for applications within its jurisdiction: [Region I](#) for the northeast, [Region II](#) for the southeast, [Region III](#) for the midwest, and [Region IV](#) for the west and southwest.

You may also be interested to know that Virginia has assumed regulatory authority over most radioactive materials used within the state under our Agreement State program. You may be able to get additional information by contacting the state regulator:

**Steve A. Harrison**, Director  
Division of Radiological Health  
Department of Health-James Madison Bldg.  
109 Governor Street, Rm 736  
Richmond, VA 23219  
PH (804)864-8151 FX (804)864-8155  
[steve.harrison@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:steve.harrison@vdh.virginia.gov)

I'm not sure what kind of statistics you are looking for on harmful radioactive material. I can direct you to an annual report we issue on events related to radioactive materials, for example a loss or theft of radioactive material or a radiation exposure. The report for fiscal year 2014 can be found on our website:  
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1504/ML15049A468.pdf>

I hope this information is helpful.

Regards,

/RA/

Maureen Conley  
Public Affairs Officer  
NRC Office of Public Affairs