



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

JAN 4 2016

Ms. Cindy Bladey
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08
Washington, D.C. 20555

11/18/2015
80FR 72115

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RULES AND REGULATIONS
DIVISION
E-1400

Dear Ms. Bladey:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, has reviewed the scoping documents and public hearing comments prepared for and by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and community stakeholders. In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, EPA is providing the following comments:

Although the proposed action is only the licensing of a new low enriched uranium Medical Isotope Reactor, EPA strongly encourages NRC to consider all of the significant environmental impacts that would be caused by licensing this facility, both beneficial and harmful, to human health and the environment. For example, alternatives one might consider are: 1) no-action, 2) licensing of this facility, or 3) denial of this facility to license with approval for licensing a different facility at another location.

The direct effects of such facilities can be both beneficial and harmful and we encourage NRC to expand the discussion in this area. The increased likelihood of a transportation accident involving molybdenum-99, or the possibility of groundwater contamination near private wells can increase the risk of harm to sensitive populations. In contrast, if such medical supplies have a pronounced effect on human health and are in short supply or are not otherwise readily available, then such considerations should also be taken into account. EPA recommends objectively analyzing both positive and negative aspects so that the decision maker can easily choose the preferred alternative.

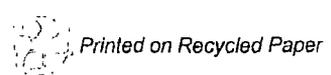
Cumulative impact discussions may also include transport of hazardous materials, storage of materials, national health benefits, induced development due to job creation, and reduction of GHGs due to proximity of the new facility.

When developing Threatened and Endangered species, one might consider not only animal species, but also plant species if construction will occur on undisturbed land.

In reviewing the background on these type of facilities, it appears that ten letters of intent have been made recently, with one construction application already submitted in Wisconsin. If the facility in Wisconsin were to be built, would this facility and the others be necessary and viable?

Other issues that should be examined in the environmental review include:

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Add= *M. Martinez (12/15)*



- What is the safe distance to the nearest residence?
- Is there adequate emergency response infrastructure in place to address unforeseen events at the proposed locations?
- Are there any prohibitions to evacuation or sheltering from the proposed facility location?
- Would EJ communities be disproportionately affected by the proposed locations?
- Has coordination between Missouri Department of Natural Resources and NRC occurred?
- Would there be a need for a 404/401 permit?
- Will there need to be coordination for farmland conversion?
- Has coordination occurred with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer?
- Does FAA need to establish a restricted zone around this facility and if so, has coordination been conducted?
- Are there any US Food and Drug Administration issues with the LEU method of producing molybdenum-99?
- Will the facility be required to conduct an annual environmental and public health radiation dose assessment similar to commercial nuclear reactors?
- Is there adequate financial assurance for decommissioning?
- Is there a maximum time requirement between facility shutdown and decommissioning?

The document should also consider greenhouse gas emissions and how the preferred alternative might improve or degrade air quality based on the construction of the facility and how this facility could improve transportation GHG emissions based on reduction of imports from Canada or overseas. Information on how to comply with the President and CEQ can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/nepa/ghg-guidance>.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public meeting and provide early comments on this project. As discussed above, there are a number of issues that we would like to see addressed in the forthcoming environmental review would likely warrant an Environmental Impact Statement. We look forward to working with you on this project. If you have questions, please call me at 913-551-7606 or contact Joe Summerlin at 913-551-7029 or summerlin.joe@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Joshua Tapp
Deputy Director

Environmental Sciences and Technology Division