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Enhanced Security for Special Nuclear Material

Comment On: NRC-2014-0118-0038
Enhanced Security of Special Nuclear Material; Request for Comment on Revised Regulatory Basis

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General Comment

I am in support of this rule making, as the main focuses is making sure that public safety is maintained, with the production of the uranium materials. By adding additional physical protection to plants and transit vehicles, we can make sure that radiological byproduct does not come in contact with the public.

This change in the rulemaking would shift the security requirements to what they once were following the terrorist attacks on 9/11. At the time there was a belief that the United States needed to be protected from any more additional attacks on the public. In 2006 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved for measures as this to be carried out, saying the security threat at these plants had increased. Now the focus is using those same safety standards to protect the public from the hazardous material. Approving these security measures would support that materials produced at plants were transported safely, and in case of accidents minimal damage would occur and clean-up could happen as soon as possible.

Besides physical manpower protection at these plants, it calls for increased concrete protection of storage units of processed uranium. This is a good measure as it can continue to make sure that the materials do not seep into the ground and later into water sources. We want to make sure we are protecting the land and water sources from being contaminated, because

cleaning land and water after is much harder than preventing it in the first place. Lastly this rule making wants to make sure that requirements are implemented to assess the potential for lethal exposures to members of the public from radiological material or chemicals subject to NRC regulations based on site-specific conditions and to protect those materials above certain exposure limits. (NRC - Rulemaking for Enhanced Security of Special Nuclear Material) This is a very crucial and beneficial rule making, as it encourages for site checks and making sure that the materials never are in negligent conditions.