



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 18, 1994

The Honorable Richard H. Lehman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The NRC has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendment to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 34. The amendment if adopted would, in part, require licensees to require at least two radiographers or a radiographer and a radiographer's assistant to be present any time radiographic operations occur outside of a permanent radiographic installation; to designate a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO); to describe all permanent radiographic installations; and to require all radiographers to be certified by a certifying entity.

The Commission is issuing the proposed rule for public comment.

Sincerely,

Linda Portner
for

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Public Announcement
2. Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Barbara Vucanovich

080033

9403160201 940218
FDR PR
34 MISC PDR

CC 32



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

February 18, 1994

The Honorable Philip R. Sharp, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The NRC has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendment to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 34. The amendment if adopted would, in part, require licensees to require at least two radiographers or a radiographer and a radiographer's assistant to be present any time radiographic operations occur outside of a permanent radiographic installation; to designate a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO); to describe all permanent radiographic installations; and to require all radiographers to be certified by a certifying entity.

The Commission is issuing the proposed rule for public comment.

Sincerely,
Linda Portner
for

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Public Announcement
2. Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Michael Bilirakis



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20566-0001

February 18, 1994

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The NRC has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendment to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 34. The amendment if adopted would, in part, require licensees to require at least two radiographers or a radiographer and a radiographer's assistant to be present any time radiographic operations occur outside of a permanent radiographic installation; to designate a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO); to describe all permanent radiographic installations; and to require all radiographers to be certified by a certifying entity.

The Commission is issuing the proposed rule for public comment.

Sincerely,

Linda Portner
for

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Public Announcement
2. Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator Alan K. Simpson

February 18, 1994

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The NRC has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendment to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 34. The amendment if adopted would, in part, require licensees to require at least two radiographers or a radiographer and a radiographer's assistant to be present any time radiographic operations occur outside of a permanent radiographic installation; to designate a Radiation Safety Officer (RSO); to describe all permanent radiographic installations; and to require all radiographers to be certified by a certifying entity.

The Commission is issuing the proposed rule for public comment.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Linda Portner for/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Public Announcement
2. Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator Alan K. Simpson

DISTRIBUTION:

RPHEB R/F - DCool
Cir./Chron
DRathbun
EBeckjord
CJHeltemes
BMorris
NCostanzi
CTrottier
MLThomas

OFFC: RPHEB: DRA
NAME: MLThomas
DATE: 2/15/94

RPHEB: DRA
CTrottier
2/15/94

RPHEB: DRA
DCool
2/15/94

DD: DRA
NCostanzi
2/15/94

D: DRA
BMorris
2-15/94

OFFC: DD: RDR
NAME: CJHeltemes
DATE: 2/15/94

R: RES
EBeckjord
2/15/94

D: OCA
DRathbun
2/18/94

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

NRC PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS
GOVERNING SAFETY OF RADIOGRAPHY OPERATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations governing the safety of radiography operations to further enhance the safety of radiographers and the public and to provide licensees with a better understanding of what is expected in radiography operations.

Radiography involves the use of radioactive materials to produce shadow images on film. The NRC has approximately 200 radiography licensees, and the 29 Agreement States (states which have assumed, by agreement, part of the NRC's regulatory authority) have an additional 500 licensees. Both NRC and Agreement State licensees often conduct business under both NRC and Agreement State jurisdiction.

The radiography regulations first were promulgated in 1965 and numerous modifications have been made since that time, the most recent in 1990 when requirements governing the performance of radiography equipment and additional reporting requirements governing equipment malfunctions were added.

As proposed, the new amendments, which have been coordinated with the Agreement States and are responsive to a 1992 petition for rulemaking from the International Union of Operating Engineers, would, among other things:

-- require that two radiographers, or a radiographer and a radiographer's assistant, be present any time radiographic operations are conducted outside of a permanent radiographic installation, which would provide a significant increase in

assurance that operational safety measures and emergency procedures would be implemented effectively;

-- require that radiographers, in addition to meeting the existing training and qualification requirements, be certified by a certifying entity, which could be either an independent certifying organization or an Agreement State;

-- change the definition of "permanent radiographic installation" to be an enclosed shielded room, cell or vault in which radiography is performed, which should reduce any ambiguity as to what the term is intended to mean; in addition, a requirement for a daily check of visible and audible alarm signals would be added;

-- add a requirement to provide additional training for radiographers' assistants; instead of just receiving copies of the licensees' operating and emergency procedures and being tested on those documents, assistants would have to receive additional training to ensure that they are knowledgeable in regard to all pertinent NRC requirements; and

-- specify the duties of the radiation safety officer (RSO) and require additional training for this position.

Written comments on the proposed amendments to Part 34 of the Commission's regulations should be received by (date). They should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention; Docketing and Service Branch.

###