



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

November 29, 1990

The Honorable Bob Graham, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Commission has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendments to the Commission's rules. The amendments would create a new Part 36 on radiation safety and licensing requirements for large irradiators. Ninety days will be allowed for public comment.

Irradiators use gamma radiation to irradiate products and change their characteristics in some way. Most irradiator capacity is now used to sterilize disposable medical products. Most of the remaining capacity is used in chemical processing. There is currently little irradiation of food, which would be for the purpose of destroying pests or prolonging shelf-life, but Congress has appropriated money to the Department of Energy to support the construction of six irradiators for use in food processing.

There are currently about 70 to 80 irradiators in the U.S. that would ultimately be affected by the rule. Some are licensed and inspected by ICA and others by Agreement States.

Commercial irradiators have been licensed since 1964. While the safety requirements and policies are generally understood and agreed upon, they are contained in regulations, a regulatory guide, and specific licensing conditions. This rule would consolidate, clarify, standardize and update the requirements for current and future irradiators.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator Alan K. Simpson

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

November 29, 1990

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 Commission has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendments to the Commission's rules. The amendments would create a new Part 36 on radiation safety and licensing requirements for large irradiators. Ninety days will be allowed for public comment.

Irradiators use gamma radiation to irradiate products and change their characteristics in some way. Most irradiator capacity is now used to sterilize disposable medical products. Most of the remaining capacity is used in chemical processing. There is currently little irradiation of food, which would be for the purpose of destroying pests or prolonging shelf-life, but Congress has appropriated money to the Department of Energy to support the construction of six irradiators for use in food processing.

There are currently about 70 to 80 irradiators in the U.S. that would ultimately be affected by the rule. Some are licensed and inspected by NRC and others by Agreement States.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Beckjord".

Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Rep. Carlos J. Moorhead



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

November 29, 1990

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Commission has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed proposed amendments to the Commission's rules. The amendments would create a new Part 36 on radiation safety and licensing requirements for large irradiators. Ninety days will be allowed for public comment.

Irradiators use gamma radiation to irradiate products and change their characteristics in some way. Most irradiator capacity is now used to sterilize disposable medical products. Most of the remaining capacity is used in chemical processing. There is currently little irradiation of food, which would be for the purpose of destroying pests or prolonging shelf-life, but Congress has appropriated money to the Department of Energy to support the construction of six irradiators for use in food processing.

There are currently about 70 or 80 irradiators in the U.S. that would ultimately be affected by the rule. Some are licensed and inspected by NRC and others by Agreement States.

Commercial irradiators have been licensed since 1964. While the safety requirements and policies are generally understood and agreed upon, they are contained in regulations, a regulatory guide, and specific licensing conditions. This rule would consolidate, clarify, standardize and update the requirements for current and future irradiators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Beckjord", written over a horizontal line.

Eric S. Beckjord, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Rep. James V. Hansen

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM
DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

This checklist is to be submitted with each document (or group of Qs/As) sent for filing into the CCS.

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) LTR to Graham, Sharp, Udall
2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT Correspondence Hearings (Qs/As)
3. DOCUMENT CONTROL Sensitive (NRC Only) Non-Sensitive
4. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE and SUBCOMMITTEES (if applicable)

_____ Congressional Committee
_____ Subcommittee

5. SUBJECT CODES

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

6. SOURCE OF DOCUMENTS

- (a) _____ 5520 (document name _____)
- (b) Scan- (c) _____ Attachments
- (d) _____ Rekey (e) _____ Other _____

7. SYSTEM LOG DATES

- (a) 12/11/90 Date OCA sent document to CCS
- (b) _____ Date CCS receives document
- (c) _____ Date returned to OCA for additional information
- (d) _____ Date resubmitted by OCA to CCS
- (e) _____ Date entered into CCS by _____
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8. COMMENTS

