

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF RADIATION PROTECTION

October 12, 1999

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Mr. Dennis P. Allison  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

OFFICE  
OF  
ADMINISTRATION

DOCKET NUMBER  
PROPOSED RULE **PR 50 + 72**  
(64FR36291)

Dear Mr. Allison:

This letter is in regard to the proposed changes to 10 CFR 50.72 and 10 CFR 50.73 presented in the July 6, 1999 Federal Register. These proposed changes would increase the reporting times for certain incidents. There are several events whose required reporting times would increase from four hours to eight hours under the proposed rules. These are:

1. An airborne radioactive release that results in concentrations over 20 times allowable levels in an unrestricted area.
2. Liquid effluent in excess of 20 times allowable concentrations released to an unrestricted area.
3. Radioactively contaminated person transported to an off-site medical facility for treatment.
4. News release or other government agency notification related to the health and safety of the public or on-site personnel, or protection of the environment.

For each of these events, the North Carolina Division of Radiation Protection believes that the required reporting time should be maintained at four hours.

The basis for taking the above position is that information on any such events will be of interest to the public and public officials. Furthermore, the Division of Radiation Protection provides independent technical advice to State decision-makers as part of its emergency preparedness function. As such, any delay in providing information to the Division of Radiation Protection may prevent or delay decisions on public health and delay announcements to the public on risks due to the incident. State agencies may be able to get such information from licensees, even under the proposed rule. This can be difficult to do when an incident is actually occurring unless NRC rules mandate that the licensee report events in timely fashion and within a prompt and well-defined period of time.

Thank you for allowing the Division of Radiation Protection to comment on these proposed rules. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Fry, CHP

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