Nuclear Regulatory Commission

§ 62.12

Contents of a request for emergency access: General information.

A request for a Commission determination under this part must include the following information for each generator to which the request applies:

(a) Name and address of the person making the request;
(b) Name and address of the person(s) or company(ies) generating the low-level radioactive waste for which the determination is sought;
(c) A statement indicating whether the generator is basing the request on the grounds of a serious and immediate threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security;
(d) Certification that the radioactive waste for which emergency access is requested is low-level radioactive waste within §62.1(c) of this part;
(e) The low-level waste generation facility(ies) producing the waste for which the request is being made;
(f) A description of the activity that generated the waste;
(g) Name of the disposal facility or facilities which had been receiving the waste stream of concern before the generator was denied access;
(h) A description of the low-level radioactive waste for which emergency access is requested, including—
   (1) The characteristics and composition of the waste, including, but not limited to—
      (i) Type of waste (e.g. solidified oil, scintillation fluid, failed equipment);
      (ii) Principal chemical composition;
      (iii) Physical state (solid, liquid, gas);
      (iv) Type of solidification media; and
      (v) Concentrations and percentages of any hazardous or toxic chemicals, chelating agents, or infectious or biological agents associated with the waste;
   (2) The radiological characteristics of the waste such as—
      (i) The classification of the waste in accordance with 61.55;
      (ii) A list of the radionuclides present or potentially present in the waste, their concentration or contamination levels, and total quantity;
      (iii) Distribution of the radionuclides within the waste (surface or volume distribution);
      (iv) Amount of transuranics (nanocuries/gram);
   (3) The minimum volume of the waste requiring emergency access to eliminate the threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security;
   (4) The time duration for which emergency access is requested (not to exceed 180 days);
   (5) Type of disposal container or packaging (55 gallon drum, box, liner, etc.); and
   (6) Description of the volume reduction and waste minimization techniques applied to the waste which assure that it is reduced to the maximum extent practicable, and the actual reduction in volume that occurred;
(1) Basis for requesting the determination set out in this part, including—
   (1) The circumstances that led to the denial of access to existing low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities;
   (2) A description of the situation that is responsible for creating the serious and immediate threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security, including the date when the need for emergency access was identified;
   (3) A chronology and description of the actions taken by the person requesting emergency access to prevent the need for making such a request, including consideration of all alternatives set forth in §62.13 of this part.
and any supporting documentation as appropriate;
(4) An explanation of the impacts of the waste on the public health and safety if emergency access is not granted, and the basis for concluding that these impacts constitute a serious and immediate threat to the public health and safety or the common defense and security. The impacts to the public health and safety or the common defense and security should also be addressed if the generator’s services, including research activities, were to be curtailed, either for a limited period of time or indefinitely;
(5) Other consequences if emergency access is not granted;
(j) Steps taken by the person requesting emergency access to correct the situation requiring emergency access and the person’s plans to eliminate the need for additional or future emergency access requests;
(k) Documentation certifying that access has been denied;
(l) Documentation that the waste for which emergency access is requested could not otherwise qualify for disposal pursuant to the Unusual Volumes provision (Section 5(c)(5) of the Act) or is not simultaneously under consideration by the Department of Energy (DOE) for access through the Unusual Volumes allocation;
(m) Date by which access is required;
(n) Any other information which the Commission should consider in making its determination.

§62.13 Contents of a request for emergency access: Alternatives.
(a) A request for emergency access under this part must include information on alternatives to emergency access. The request shall include a discussion of the consideration given to any alternatives, including, but not limited to, the following:
(1) Storage of low-level radioactive waste at the site of generation;
(2) Storage of low-level radioactive waste in a licensed storage facility;
(3) Obtaining access to a disposal facility by voluntary agreement;
(4) Purchasing disposal capacity available for assignment pursuant to the Act;
(5) Requesting disposal at a Federal low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in the case of a Federal or defense related generator of LLW;
(6) Reducing the volume of the waste;
(7) Ceasing activities that generate low-level radioactive waste; and
(8) Other alternatives identified under paragraph (b) of this section.
(b) The request must identify all of the alternatives to emergency access considered, including any that would require State or Compact action, or any others that are not specified in paragraph (a) of this section. The request should also include a description of the process used to identify the alternatives, a description of the factors that were considered in identifying and evaluating them, a chronology of actions taken to identify and implement alternatives during the process, and a discussion of any actions that were considered, but not implemented.
(c) The evaluation of each alternative must consider:
(1) Its potential for mitigating the serious and immediate threat to public health and safety or the common defense and security posed by lack of access to disposal;
(2) The adverse effects on public health and safety and the common defense and security, if any, of implementing each alternative, including the curtailment or cessation of any essential services affecting the public health and safety or the common defense and security;
(3) The technical and economic feasibility of each alternative including the person’s financial capability to implement the alternatives;
(4) Any other pertinent societal costs and benefits;
(5) Impacts to the environment;
(6) Any legal impediments to implementation of each alternative, including whether the alternatives will comply with applicable NRC and NRC Agreement States regulatory requirements; and
(7) The time required to develop and implement each alternative.
(d) The request must include the basis for:
(1) Rejecting each alternative; and
(2) Concluding that no alternative is available.