

Dated: December 18, 1997.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-33550 Filed 12-19-97; 11:55 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Fixed Gauge Licenses; Availability of Draft NUREG

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the availability of and requesting comment on draft NUREG-1556, Volume 4, "Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance about Fixed Gauge Licenses," dated October 1997.

NRC is using Business Process Redesign (BPR) techniques to redesign its materials licensing process, as described in NUREG-1539, "Methodology and Findings of the NRC's Materials Licensing Process Redesign." A critical element of the new process is consolidating and updating numerous guidance documents into a NUREG-series of reports. This draft NUREG report is the fourth program-specific guidance developed to support an improved materials licensing process.

It is intended for use by applicants, licensees, NRC license reviewers, and other NRC personnel. It combines and updates the guidance for applicants and licensees previously found in Draft Regulatory Guide and Value/Impact Statement, FC 404-4, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Licenses for the Use of Sealed Sources in Nonportable Gauging Devices," dated January 1985, and the guidance for licensing staff previously found in Policy and Guidance Directive, FC 85-4, "Standard Review Plan for Applications for the Use of Sealed Sources in Nonportable Gauging Devices," dated February 6, 1985, and Policy and Guidance Directive, FC 85-8, Revision 1, "Licensing of Fixed Gauges and Similar Devices," dated June 29, 1988. In addition, this draft report also contains pertinent information found in Technical Assistance Requests and Information Notices.

This draft report takes a risk-informed, performance-based approach to licensing fixed gauges, i.e., it reduces the amount of information needed from an applicant seeking to possess and use a relatively safe device. These fixed gauges contain sealed sources of radioactive material and incorporate features engineered to enhance their safety. NRC's considerable experience with these licensees indicates that radiation exposures to workers are generally low, if the gauges are operated as designed and workers follow basic safety procedures.

This draft report is strictly for public comment and is NOT for use in preparing or reviewing applications for fixed gauges until it is published in final form. It is being distributed for comment to encourage public participation in its development.

DATES: The comment period ends March 23, 1998. Comments received after that time will be considered if practicable.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hand deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Federal workdays. Comments may also be submitted through the Internet by addressing electronic mail to DLM1@NRC.GOV.

Those considering public comment may request a free single copy of draft NUREG-1556, Volume 4, by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *Attn:* Sally L. Merchant, Mail Stop TWFN 8F5, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Alternatively, submit requests through the Internet by addressing electronic mail to SLM2@NRC.GOV. A copy of draft NUREG-1556, Volume 4, is also available for inspection and/or copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Merchant, Mail Stop TWFN 8-F5, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-7874; electronic mail address: slm2@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of December, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

Chief, Medical, Academic, and Commercial Use Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-33422 Filed 12-22-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Self-Shielded Irradiator Licenses; Availability of Draft NUREG

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the availability of and requesting comment on draft NUREG-1556, Volume 5, "Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance about Self-Shielded Irradiator Licenses," dated October 1997.

NRC is using Business Process Redesign (BPR) techniques to redesign its materials licensing process, as described in NUREG-1539, "Methodology and Findings of the NRC's Materials Licensing Process Redesign." A critical element of the new process is consolidating and updating numerous guidance documents into a NUREG-series of reports. This draft NUREG report is the fifth program-specific guidance developed to support an improved materials licensing process.

It is intended for use by applicants, licensees, NRC license reviewers, and other NRC personnel. It combines and updates the guidance for applicants and licensees previously found in Regulatory Guide 10.9, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Licenses for the Use of Self-Contained Dry Source-Storage Gamma Irradiators," dated December 1988, and the guidance for licensing staff previously found in Policy and Guidance Directive, FC 84-16, Revision 1, "Standard Review Plan for Applications for Use of Self-Contained Dry Source-Storage Gamma Irradiators," dated January 26, 1989. In addition, this draft report also contains information found in pertinent Technical Assistance Requests and Information Notices.

This draft report takes a risk-informed, performance-based approach to licensing self-shielded irradiators, i.e., it reduces the amount of