NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

PLACE: NTSB Conference Center, 429 L’Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20594.

STATUS: The three items are open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

8013 Safety Recommendation Letter to Licensees

8014 Highway Accident Brief

Waste by Fuel Cycle and Materials Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Regulatory

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

BILLING CODE 7533

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: Telephone: (202) 314–6100.


Vicky D’Onofrio,
Federal Register Liaison Officer.

BILLING CODE 7533–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of Regulatory Issue Summary 2008–12
Considerations for Extended Interim Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste by Fuel Cycle and Materials Licensees

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James Shaffner, Project Manager, Low-Level Waste Branch, Environmental Protection and Performance Assessment Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection (DWMEP), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone (301) 415–5496; fax number (301) 415–5397; e-mail james.shaffner@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

In its annual report (SECY 06–193, “Annual Review of the Need for Rulemaking and/or Regulatory Guidance on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Storage,” September 6, 2006) to the Commission on the need for rulemaking or guidance related to extended interim storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW), the NRC staff reported its intention to review and revise, as necessary, guidance to NRC licensees faced with the prospect of mandatory extended interim storage of low-level radioactive waste. Staff stated that the emphasis of the effort would be directed toward the needs of fuel cycle and radioactive materials licenses that may be required to store waste classified as Class B or C waste, in accordance with 10 CFR part 61, “Licensing Land Disposal of Radioactive Waste,” after June 30, 2008, because of the limitation of access to the Barnwell Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility. In its follow-up report on the topic, SECY 07–083, dated October 22, 2007, staff outlined the process and timeline for accomplishment of the guidance update. The emphasis on fuel cycle and radioactive materials licenses was based on the understanding that 10 CFR part 50 licenses (production and utilization facilities) were more likely to have pre-existing technical, physical, and financial infrastructure to adequately manage any required extended interim storage of LLRW.

II. Background

The limitation of disposal access at the Barnwell disposal facility to States that comprise the Atlantic LLRW Compact (South Carolina, Connecticut, and New Jersey) as of July 1, 2008 is likely to require many radioactive materials licensees outside of that compact that generate Class B and C LLRW to store such waste. In anticipation of this circumstance, NRC staff reviewed and updated information related to extended interim storage of LLRW by fuel cycle and radioactive materials licensees. In SECY–07–083, staff determined that the most efficient and transparent means to accomplish this was to revise IN 90–09. However, in consultation with other NRC offices it was later determined that the most appropriate form of generic communication for imparting the information was a RIS. Although the RIS does not impose any additional regulatory requirements on NRC licensees, staff considered that it also may be of some interest to Agreement State radiation control programs and their licensees.

III. Need for the Revision

NRC staff considered the need for the revision of IN 90–09 based on changes in regulatory circumstances that have occurred since 1990. These include, but are not limited to, the changing nature of access to permanent disposal capacity, emerging technologies related to the processing, treatment and handling of radioactive waste, and changed security considerations based on the circumstances of September 11, 2001.

The updated information in the form of RIS 2008–12 is responsive to both licensees who will be able to store LLRW in accordance with terms and conditions of existing licenses as well as those whose circumstances may have changed such that a license amendment is required. The RIS includes a number of major considerations related to extended interim storage. These include reaffirmations of two considerations, related to storage time limit and suitable waste forms for storage, formerly addressed but never finalized by NRC staff in SECY 94–198, “Review of Existing Guidance Concerning Extended Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste” (August 1, 1994).

The RIS includes four enclosures to inform its contents and facilitate its use. The enclosures include licensing considerations, updated State and compact contacts, additional references, and recently issued generic communications.

IV. Intended Use

RIS 2008–12 provides updated information related to extended interim storage of LLRW by fuel cycle and materials licensees. It imposes no additional regulatory requirements. The RIS is intended to replace the IN 90–09 dated February 5, 1990. Further, any references to IN 90–09 contained in other NRC guidance or technical

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