

(4) Retrievable Surface Storage Facilities and other facilities authorized for the express purpose of subsequent long-term storage of high-level radioactive waste generated by the Administration, which are not used for, or are part of, research and development activities.

(5) Any facility under a contract with and for the account of the Department of Energy that is utilized for the express purpose of fabricating mixed plutonium-uranium oxide nuclear reactor fuel for use in a commercial nuclear reactor licensed under such Act, other than any such facility that is utilized for research, development, demonstration, testing, or analysis purposes.

(Pub. L. 93-438, title II, §202, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1244; Pub. L. 105-261, div. C, title XXXI, §3134(a), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2247.)

### Editorial Notes

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, referred to in text, is act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 919, which is classified principally to chapter 23 (§2011 et seq.) of this title. Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 10 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, are classified generally to subchapters V (§2071 et seq.), VI (§2091 et seq.), VII (§2111 et seq.), and IX (§2131 et seq.) of division A of chapter 23 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of this title and Tables.

The effective date of this chapter, referred to in par. (2), refers to the effective date of Pub. L. 93-438. See section 312 of Pub. L. 93-438, set out as an Effective Date; Interim Appointments note under section 5801 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1998—Par. (5). Pub. L. 105-261 added par. (5).

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR LICENSING BY NRC

Pub. L. 105-261, div. C, title XXXI, §3134(b), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2247, provided that: "Section 210 of the Department of Energy National Security and Military Applications of Nuclear Energy Authorization Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 7272 [now 50 U.S.C. 2513]) shall not apply to any licensing activities required pursuant to section 202(5) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5842), as added by subsection (a)."

#### APPLICABILITY OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS TO ACTIVITIES UNDER LICENSE

Pub. L. 105-261, div. C, title XXXI, §3134(c), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2247, provided that: "Any activities carried out under a license required pursuant to section 202(5) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5842), as added by subsection (a), shall be subject to regulation under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)."

#### VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES AND LICENSED UTILIZATION FACILITIES

Pub. L. 96-295, title III, §305(a), June 30, 1980, 94 Stat. 790, provided that: "As expeditiously as practicable, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall establish a mechanism for instantaneous and uninterrupted verbal communication between each utilization facility licensed to operate under section 103 or section 104 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 [section 2133 or 2134(b) of this title] on the date of enactment of this Act [June 30, 1980], or thereafter, and

"(1) Commission headquarters, and  
"(2) the appropriate Commission regional office."

#### STUDY OF EXTENSION OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF COMMISSION; REPORT TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 95-601, §12, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2953, directed Commission, in cooperation with Department of Energy, to conduct a study of extending the Commission's licensing or regulatory authority to include categories of existing and future Federal radioactive waste storage and disposal activities not presently subject to such authority, and on or before Mar. 1, 1979, to submit a report to Congress containing results of study, which report was to include a complete listing and inventory of all radioactive waste storage and disposal activities being conducted or planned by Federal agencies.

### Executive Documents

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of certain functions from Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Chairman thereof, see Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1980, 45 F.R. 40561, 94 Stat. 3585, set out as a note under section 5841 of this title.

### § 5843. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

#### (a) Establishment; appointment of Director

There is hereby established in the Commission an Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation under the direction of a Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, who shall be appointed by the Commission, who may report directly to the Commission, as provided in section 5849 of this title, and who shall serve at the pleasure of and be removable by the Commission.

#### (b) Functions of Director

Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation shall perform such functions as the Commission shall delegate, including the following:

(1) Principal licensing and regulation involving all facilities, and materials licensed under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended [42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.], associated with the construction and operation of nuclear reactors licensed under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended;

(2) Review the safety and safeguards of all such facilities, materials, and activities, and such review functions shall include, but not be limited to—

(A) monitoring, testing and recommending upgrading of systems designed to prevent substantial health or safety hazards; and

(B) evaluating methods of transporting special nuclear and other nuclear materials and of transporting and storing high-level radioactive wastes to prevent radiation hazards to employees and the general public.

(3) Recommend research necessary to fulfill the licensing and regulatory oversight functions of the Commission.

#### (c) Licensing process

In carrying out the principal licensing and regulation functions under subsection (b)(1), the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation shall—

(1) establish techniques and guidance for evaluating applications for licenses for nuclear reactors to support efficient, timely, and predictable reviews of applications for those licenses to enable the safe and secure use of nuclear reactors;

(2) maintain the techniques and guidance established under paragraph (1) by periodically assessing and, if necessary, modifying those techniques and guidance; and

(3) obtain approval from the Commission if establishment or modification of the techniques and guidance under paragraph (1) or (2) involves policy formulation.

**(d) Responsibility for safe operation of facilities**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit in any way the functions of the Administration relating to the safe operation of all facilities resulting from all activities within the jurisdiction of the Administration pursuant to this chapter.

(Pub. L. 93-438, title II, §203, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1244; Pub. L. 118-67, div. B, title V, §505(a), July 9, 2024, 138 Stat. 1477.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (d), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 93-438, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1233, known as the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5801 of this title and Tables.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 919, which is classified principally to chapter 23 (§2011 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 118-67, §505(a)(1), inserted heading.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 118-67, §505(a)(2)(A), inserted heading and substituted “delegate, including the following:” for “delegate including:” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 118-67, §505(a)(2)(B), substituted “to fulfill the licensing and regulatory oversight” for “for the discharge of the”.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 118-67, §505(a)(3), (4), added subsec. (c), redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d), and inserted heading in subsec. (d).

**Executive Documents**

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of certain functions from Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Chairman thereof, see Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1980, 45 F.R. 40561, 94 Stat. 3585, set out as a note under section 5841 of this title.

**§ 5844. Office of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards**

**(a) Establishment; appointment of Director**

There is hereby established in the Commission an Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards under the direction of a Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, who shall be appointed by the Commission, who may report directly to the Commission as provided in section 5849 of this title, and who shall serve at the pleasure of and be removable by the Commission.

**(b) Functions of Director**

Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safe-

guards shall perform such functions as the Commission shall delegate including:

(1) Principal licensing and regulation involving all facilities and materials, licensed under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended [42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.], associated with the processing, transport, and handling of nuclear materials, including the provision and maintenance of safeguards against threats, thefts, and sabotage of such licensed facilities, and materials.

(2) Review safety and safeguards of all such facilities and materials licensed under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and such review shall include, but not be limited to—

(A) monitoring, testing, and recommending upgrading of internal accounting systems for special nuclear and other nuclear materials licensed under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended;

(B) developing, in consultation and coordination with the Administration, contingency plans for dealing with threats, thefts, and sabotage relating to special nuclear materials, high-level radioactive wastes and nuclear facilities resulting from all activities licensed under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended;

(C) assessing the need for, and the feasibility of, establishing a security agency within the office for the performance of the safeguards functions, and a report with recommendations on this matter shall be prepared within one year of the effective date of this chapter and promptly transmitted to the Congress by the Commission.

(3) Recommending research to enable the Commission to more effectively perform its functions.

**(c) Responsibility for safeguarding special nuclear materials; high-level radioactive wastes and nuclear facilities**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit in any way the functions of the Administration relating to the safeguarding of special nuclear materials, high-level radioactive wastes and nuclear facilities resulting from all activities within the jurisdiction of the Administration pursuant to this chapter.

(Pub. L. 93-438, title II, §204, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1245.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (c), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 93-438, Oct. 11, 1974, 88 Stat. 1233, known as the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5801 of this title and Tables.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), (2), is act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 919, which is classified principally to chapter 23 (§2011 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of this title and Tables.

The effective date of this chapter, referred to in subsec. (b)(2)(C), refers to the effective date of Pub. L.