



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULE REQUIRING DETAILED SAFETY ANALYSES FOR URANIUM CONVERSION FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission seeks public comments on a proposed rule that would require uranium conversion and deconversion facilities authorized to possess significant quantities of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) to conduct integrated safety analyses (ISAs), and to determine whether the NRC or an Agreement State would have regulatory authority over the facility.

The proposed rule, published today in the *Federal Register*, would establish ISA requirements for these facilities similar to those already in place for uranium enrichment and fuel fabrication facilities. Conversion and deconversion facilities are regulated under 10 CFR Part 40 in the NRC regulations, which governs source material (in this case, unenriched uranium). The ISA requirements for other fuel cycle facilities are contained in 10 CFR Part 70, which governs special nuclear material (enriched uranium).

Part 40 facilities using UF₆ face similar health and safety hazards as Part 70 facilities – especially chemical hazards from hydrogen fluoride (HF), a highly reactive and corrosive chemical that evolves spontaneously when UF₆ is exposed to moisture in the air. The NRC staff considers an ISA to be an effective tool for managing risk to workers and the public from chemical and radiological hazards at Part 40 facilities that are authorized to possess significant quantities of UF₆.

The proposed rule would amend 10 CFR Part 40 to require applicants or licensees with a possession limit of 2,000 kg or more of UF₆ to conduct an ISA and submit an ISA summary. NRC would assert jurisdiction over all applicants and licensees that are authorized to possess 2,000 kg or more of UF₆, even if the facility is in an Agreement State. (The NRC has agreements with 37 states under which the states regulate radioactive materials.) The ISA requirements would be similar to those applicable to uranium enrichment and fuel fabrication facilities.

The NRC is also seeking comments on [proposed guidance](#) for licensees on implementing the new requirements.

Comments will be accepted through Aug. 1. They may be submitted over the federal government's rulemaking website, <http://www.regulations.gov>, by using the Docket ID NRC-2009-0079 for the proposed rule or Docket ID NRC-2011-0080 for the proposed guidance,

or by e-mail to Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov. They may also be mailed to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

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