



NRC NEWS

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NRC FINAL RULE CHANGES DEFINITION OF CONSTRUCTION FOR MATERIALS APPLICANTS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has amended its regulations for nuclear materials licenses to change the meaning of “construction” and “commencement of construction” and allow applicants for some materials licenses to conduct certain site-preparation activities before a license is issued.

The changes apply to the licensing and approval processes for byproduct, source and special nuclear material licenses and irradiators. They make the definition of “construction” and “commencement of construction” consistent with NRC regulations for nuclear power plant applicants and licensees as amended in 2007. Previously, applicants for uranium recovery, fuel cycle facilities and other materials facilities had to apply for exemptions to conduct site preparation activities similar to those that power plant applicants are allowed to perform.

The final rule does not include a “limited work authorization” provision similar to that in NRC regulations for nuclear power plants.

The changes were included in a final rule published today in the *Federal Register*. The changes become effective Nov. 14. A proposed rule was published July 27, 2010, for public comment.

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