

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**NRC CONSIDERS CHANGES TO REGULATIONS
FOR SPENT FUEL STORAGE CASK DESIGNERS**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering expanding the scope of its regulations to make them more fully applicable to holders of, and applicants for, NRC certificates of compliance for the design of a spent fuel storage cask, and to their contractors and subcontractors. These changes are necessary to more effectively address performance problems that have occurred in the spent fuel storage industry.

The revisions to Part 72 of the Commission's regulations would enhance the agency's ability to take enforcement action against these companies if they violate legally binding requirements in Part 72.

The proposed changes would also add recordkeeping and reporting requirements. They would require that a certificate holder submit a written report to the NRC within 30 days after finding certain types of deficiencies in the design or fabrication of a spent fuel storage cask that has been delivered to a licensee (such as a nuclear power plant operator). The requirement would apply if the deficiency affects the ability of structures, systems and components important to safety to perform their function. Another section of the Commission's regulations (Part 21) already requires certificate holders and applicants to report a "substantial safety hazard" to the NRC. The proposed revisions would apply to deficiencies that do not rise to this level.

Further details of the proposed changes are contained in a Federal Register notice to be published shortly.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed rule changes to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. The comments should be submitted within 75 days of the Federal Register notice. Comments may also be provided electronically via the NRC's interactive rulemaking web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/rule.html>.

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