



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED RULE AMENDING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSED NUCLEAR FACILITIES

The NRC has extended the public comment period for a proposed rule on emergency preparedness requirements from 75 to 150 days. The proposed rule, including associated guidance documents, would change emergency preparedness requirements for currently operating nuclear power plants, for those that might be licensed and built in the future, and for operating research and test reactors.

Several stakeholders had requested that the comment period be extended based on the extensive nature of the proposed rule and guidance changes, and the need for additional time to evaluate the impact of these changes on their emergency preparedness programs.

The proposed rule would limit the duties of a plant's onsite emergency responders to ensure they are not overburdened during an emergency event, and require specific provisions to protect them and other plant personnel during a hostile-action event. In addition, the proposed rule would require all nuclear power plants to incorporate hostile-action scenarios in their drills and exercises, which currently primarily focus on nuclear-related scenarios. New requirements for back-up measures for alerting and notification systems are also included in the proposed rule.

The NRC will hold public meetings on the proposed rule over the next several weeks in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland and Texas. At these meetings, hosted jointly by the NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, staff from both agencies will be available to answer questions about the proposed regulations and draft guidance.

After reviewing all public comments, the NRC staff plans to submit a proposed final rule to the Commission by mid-2010.

The public can view the NRC's original notice on the proposed rule in the *Federal Register* at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-10947.pdf>. A *Federal Register* notice on the comment extension will appear in the near future.

Comments on the proposed rule and associated documents may be submitted over the federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> (Docket I.D. NRC-2008-0122); by e-mail to Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov; by mail to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff; or by fax to 301-492-3466.

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