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CONTACT: Maureen Conley, 301-415-8200

NRC Submits Inter-agency Task Force Report on Radiation Source Protection and Security

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent the third report of the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force to President Obama and Congress, outlining the federal government's efforts over the past four years to enhance the security of radioactive sources.

The task force was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, with the NRC as its chair, to evaluate the security of radioactive sources in the United States and provide recommendations on guarding them from potential criminal or terrorist threats, including acts of sabotage, theft or use in a "dirty bomb." The task force consists of representatives from NRC; the departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Energy, Transportation, Justice, State and Health and Human Services; the Director of National Intelligence; the Environmental Protection Agency; the CIA and FBI; the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and the Organization of Agreement States.

The legislation required a task force report in 2006 and every four years thereafter. The 2014 report presents the status of open recommendations and actions from the 2006 and 2010 reports as well as new recommendations on such topics as:

- cybersecurity;
- financial planning or other mechanisms to address costs for disposal/disposition of radioactive sources; and
- transition to effective alternative technologies that could perform all or some of current technologies that use radioactive sources.

The 2006 report described efforts planned or underway to strengthen regulatory controls and made several recommendations to enhance the overall security of risk-significant radioactive materials, such as sources used in irradiators, radiography and certain radiation cancer treatments. The 2010 report presented the status of recommendations and actions from the 2006 report and new recommendations to advance the security, control, recovery, and disposition of radioactive sources and continue the progress in the area of alternative technologies.

More information about the task force, including the 2014, 2010 and 2006 reports, is available on the NRC website.