

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

An Independent Nuclear Regulator

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent agency charged with oversight of U.S. commercial nuclear activities in order to protect the public health and safety, promote the common defense and security and protect the environment.

NRC executes this important duty by licensing and regulating the Nation's civilian use of byproduct source and special nuclear materials. The NRC's regulations are designed to protect both the public and workers against radiation hazards from industries that use radioactive materials.

NRC's scope of responsibility includes regulation of commercial nuclear power plants; research, test, and training reactors; nuclear fuel cycle facilities; medical academic and industrial uses of radioactive materials; and the transport, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials and wastes. In addition, NRC licenses the import and export of radioactive materials and works to enhance nuclear safety, safeguards, and security throughout the world.

NRC adheres to the principles of good regulation—*independence, openness, efficiency, clarity, and reliability*. The agency puts these principles into practice with effective, realistic, and timely regulatory actions, consistent with our organizational values and our open, collaborative work environment.

NRC supports U.S. interests abroad in the safe and secure use of nuclear materials and in guarding against the spread of nuclear weapons. NRC actively participates in international working groups and provides advice and assistance to international organizations and foreign countries to develop effective regulatory organizations and enforce rigorous safety standards.

NRC has bilateral programs of assistance or cooperation with 42 countries, Taiwan, and the European Atomic Energy Community. The NRC's international exchange programs provide joint cooperative activities and assistance to other countries to develop and improve regulatory organizations. Two of these programs are the International Regulatory Development Partnership (www.irdp-online.org) and the Radiation Sources Regulatory Partnership (www.rsrp-online.org).

NRC's information exchange arrangements serve as communications channels with foreign regulatory authorities, establishing the framework for NRC to gain access to non-U.S. safety information that can (1) alert us to potential safety problems, (2) help us identify possible accident precursors, and (3) provide accident and incident analyses, including lessons learned, that could be directly applicable to the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants and other facilities. They also serve as vehicles for the health and safety assistance NRC supplies to emerging countries in their attempts to prevent accidents and to develop and improve their regulatory capabilities and their nuclear safety infrastructure. Thus, the arrangements facilitate NRC's strategic goal to support U.S. interests in the safe and secure use of nuclear materials and in nuclear nonproliferation both at home and abroad.

For more information, please visit the NRC's website at www.nrc.gov.

