

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF WASTE, AIR, RADIATION AND REMEDIATION
BUREAU OF RADIATION PROTECTION
HARRISBURG, PA 17101

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BRP INFORMATION NOTICE 2017-01

CATEGORY 3 SOURCE SECURITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

ADDRESSEES

All Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Licensees of Category 3 Radioactive Sources.

PURPOSE

The DEP is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to bring to the attention of PA licensees that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently evaluating whether it is necessary to revise NRC regulations or processes governing source protection and accountability for Category 3 sources.

DISCUSSION

As a result of a recent investigation by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the NRC issued a Staff Requirements Memorandum and directed NRC staff to take specific actions to evaluate whether it is necessary to revise NRC regulations or processes governing radioactive source protection and accountability. Specifically, the NRC asked the staff to conduct an evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of different methods related to transferors of Category 3 quantities of radioactive material to verify the validity of a transferee's license prior to transfer, the advantages and disadvantages of including Category 3 sources in the National Source Tracking System (NSTS), and the risks posed by aggregation of Category 3 sources into Category 2 quantities. As part of this evaluation, the NRC is seeking input from licensees, Agreement States, and the public to inform the staff's assessment of potential revisions to regulations or processes requiring Category 3 source protection and accountability.

For more information, please see the attached copy of the *Federal Register* notice (FRN), [82 FR 2399](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/31/2017-01-31-nrc-staff-requirements-memorandum), which contains specific questions for stakeholders to consider regarding Category 3 source security and accountability. Furthermore, the NRC plans to hold several public meetings and webinars during the public comment period for this action. The first public meeting was held on January 31, 2017 at NRC Headquarters. The two other public meetings will be held outside of the Washington DC area. The webinars are scheduled for February 21, 2017 and March 2, 2017. Further information on this effort, updates, and public meeting details can be found at: <https://www.nrc.gov/security/byproduct/category-3-source-security-accountability-reevaluation.html>.

CONTACT

This IN requires no specific action or written response; however, your input into this evaluation of Category 3 sources is very important factor in fully assessing the regulatory impact of any recommendations that will be made on this subject. Please consider responding to the NRC's specific questions as well as participating in a public meeting or webinar. If you have any questions regarding the FRN or the comment process, they can be addressed directly to the individual NRC contacts noted in the FRN.

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