

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

May 8, 2015

BRP INFORMATION NOTICE 2015-01

VOLUNTARY SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS
FOR CATEGORY 1 AND 2 RADIOACTIVE
SOURCES

ADDRESSEES

All Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Specific Licensees of Category 1 and Category 2 Radiation Sources.

PURPOSE

The DEP is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to bring to the attention of PA licensees the available options for security improvements through the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) with the cooperation of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

BACKGROUND

Over the past several years, the NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), with the cooperation of the NRC has been providing voluntary security enhancements for materials licensees authorized to possess International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Category 1 and 2 quantities of radioactive material. Recently the GTRI has undergone a restructuring, and the work formerly carried out by GTRI will continue as part of a new organization within NNSA called the Office of Radiological Security with the work being performed by the Radiological Security Program (RSP).

DISCUSSION

Radioactive materials play a critical and beneficial role in the nation's medical, industrial, and academic infrastructure. However, the possibility that these materials could be used by terrorists is a national security concern. To help prevent these occurrences, NNSA and the NRC have partnered with state, local, and tribal governments, other federal agencies and the private sector with a common goal of preventing nuclear and radiological material from being used in an improvised nuclear device, a radiation exposure device, or a radioactive dispersal device – a so-called "dirty bomb."

Under this program, RSP experts provide security assessments, share observations and make recommendations for enhancing material security. NNSA will fund the installation of agreed upon security enhancements. Typical security enhancements include automated access control, motion sensors, radiation sensors, electronic seals, alarm control and display systems, remote monitoring of

licensee facilities at off-site response locations, enhanced security force communications and protection equipment, delay elements, and transportation security enhancements, when appropriate. The RSP also provides alarm response training for law enforcement and site personnel at its facility in Oak Ridge, TN, at no cost to the attendees.

For questions regarding these enhancements please review the attached NRC / NNSA document "Partnership for Securing Nuclear and Radioactive Materials" and the NRC Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) 2010-02 at this link, <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1001/ML100150354.pdf> . You may also contact Kristina Hatcher, NNSA, at (202) 586-7544 or kristina.hatcher@nnsa.doe.gov for more information.

CONTACT

This Information Notice requires no specific action or written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, please contact the Radiation Control Division at 717-787-3720.

Issued By:
David J. Allard, CHP, Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection

Voluntary Security Enhancements for Category 1 Radioactive Sources

Over the past several years, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) with the cooperation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been providing voluntary security enhancements for materials licensees authorized to possess International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Category 1 quantities of radioactive material. As of December 31, 2014, this cooperative effort between NNSA and NRC along with endorsements from the Organization of Agreement States, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has provided security enhancements to over 734 licensee facilities within the United States.

The NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) has been the organization implementing the work for the NNSA to date; however, the work formerly carried out by GTRI will continue as part of a new organization within NNSA called the Office of Radiological Security with the work being carried out by the Radiological Security Program (RSP). This reorganization within NNSA recognizes the vital mission of enhancing security of radioactive sources within the US and abroad. At the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague, the Netherlands, one of the results of the Summit was many countries including the United States vowed actions to improve the security of radioactive sources. Further information on the 2014 Summit and the US commitment can be found here:

<http://www.state.gov/t/isn/nuclearsecuritysummit/2014/index.htm>.

At the conclusion of the Summit, the White House issued the following press release stating the US intended to lead by example and enhance security for Category 1 radioactive sources by 2016:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/03/24/statement-enhancing-radiological-security>.

To this end, Congress has provided additional funding this year specifically set aside for US Category 1 license holders to meet the goals set forth at the Summit and to demonstrate the US commitment to global partners.

As a Category 1 licensee of radioactive sources, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of RSP's voluntary security enhancements program. Under this program, RSP security experts provide security assessments, share observations and make recommendations for enhancing material security. When appropriate, NNSA pays for the installation of agreed upon security enhancements. Typical security enhancements include automated access control, motion sensors, radiation sensors, electronic seals, alarm control and display systems, remote monitoring of licensee facilities at off-site response locations, enhanced security force communications and protection equipment, delay elements, and transportation security enhancements, when appropriate. RSP also provides cost free alarm response training for law enforcement and site personnel at its facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

RSP staff from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory or Sandia National Laboratories will be following up with you to solicit your participation in the voluntary security enhancements program. Additionally, RSP will be holding a series of webinars during February explaining the voluntary security enhancements. More information on the webinars will be forthcoming. If you have questions about the voluntary security enhancements, please review the following NRC-RIS:

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1001/ML100150354.pdf>.

For sites with excess radioactive sources, NNSA's Offsite Source Recovery Project (OSRP) has a mission to remove excess, unwanted, abandoned, or orphan radioactive sealed sources that pose a potential risk to health, safety, and national security. If you have unwanted radioactive sealed sources,

please register them with OSRP at the following website: <http://osrp.lanl.gov>. Upon registration, you will receive an email confirming the source data has been received and providing information on recycle, disposal, and/or recovery options. For registration information, questions, and comments, please send an e-mail message to the OSRP Group at the website link or call 877-676-1749.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Kristina Hatcher at (202) 586-7544 or kristina.hatcher@nnsa.doe.gov.