

November 15, 2011

ALL STATE LIAISON OFFICERS  
ALL STATE RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

INFORMATION REQUEST: SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2011 (FSME-11-100)

**Purpose:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is soliciting survey input from external stakeholders related to the effectiveness of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP).<sup>\*</sup> This solicitation will provide insights into the self-assessment process, and a summary of the survey results will be included in the annual ROP self-assessment report to the Commission.

**Background:** The mission of the NRC is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment. This mission is accomplished through the following activities:

- The NRC issues licenses for the possession, use, and disposal of nuclear materials;
- The NRC develops and implements requirements governing licensed activities; and
- The NRC inspects licensee activities to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and the law.

Although the NRC's responsibility is to monitor and regulate licensees' performance, the primary responsibility for safe operation and handling of nuclear materials rests with each licensee.

As the nuclear industry in the United States has matured, the NRC and its licensees have learned much about how to safely operate nuclear facilities and handle nuclear materials. In April 2000, the NRC implemented the ROP to achieve more effective and efficient inspection,

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<sup>\*</sup>This survey contains information collections that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0197, which expires August 31, 2012.

The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to be 45 minutes per response. The information gathered will be used in the NRC's self-assessment of the reactor oversight process. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to the Information Services Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to [INFOCOLLECTS.RESOURCE@NRC.GOV](mailto:INFOCOLLECTS.RESOURCE@NRC.GOV); and to the Desk Officer, Chad Whiteman, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0197), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

assessment, and enforcement approaches applying insights from years of regulatory oversight and nuclear facility operation. Key elements of the ROP include NRC inspection, plant performance indicators, a significance determination process, and an assessment program that incorporates various risk-informed and deterministic thresholds to help determine the level of NRC oversight. Since ROP development, the NRC has frequently communicated with the public by various initiatives: conducting public meetings in the vicinity of each licensed commercial nuclear power plant, issuing *Federal Register* notices to solicit feedback on the ROP, publishing press releases about the process, conducting multiple public workshops, placing pertinent background information in the NRC's Public Document Room, and maintaining an NRC Web site containing easily accessible information about the ROP and licensee performance.

**Discussion:** The NRC seeks to achieve continuous improvement of the ROP through the ROP self-assessment process, which provides a systematic approach to evaluating the overall effectiveness of the ROP in meeting pre-established goals and intended outcomes. A key input to the ROP self-assessment process is obtained through surveys to solicit stakeholder feedback on the ROP. Responses to the CY 2011 survey will provide important information for the ROP self-assessment process and will be used to inform potential program improvements. An electronic, fillable version of the survey questions may be obtained from <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/2011ROPsurvey.pdf>. Please provide your response **by January 13, 2012**, either by e-mail to [ROPsurvey@nrc.gov](mailto:ROPsurvey@nrc.gov) or via the U.S. Postal System to:

Cindy Bladey, Chief  
Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch  
Office of Administration (Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M)  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

All questions with respect to this correspondence should be directed to the individual named below.

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Enclosure:  
Survey

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