



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 5, 2017

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, VERMONT, WYOMING

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S INSPECTION MANUAL CHAPTER 2800, "MATERIALS INSPECTION PROGRAM" (STC-17-036)

Purpose: To provide Agreement States the opportunity to comment on the draft revisions of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards draft Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2800, "Materials Inspection Program."

Background: On June 8, 2015, the Commission issued Staff Requirement Memorandum (SRM) SECY-15-0015, "Project Aim 2020 and Recommendations," directing the staff to perform a prioritization of all work activities across the agency and a one-time re-baselining of this work. The Commission noted that the staff should prioritize and re-baseline the agency's work in an integrated manner, consistent with the agency's mission, values, and the Principles of Good Regulations. On January 31, 2016, the NRC staff submitted to the Commission SECY-16-0009, "Recommendations Resulting from the Integrated Prioritization and Re-Baselining of Agency Activities." Enclosure 1 (ML16028A212) to SECY-16-009 included a list of the NRC work activities that could be shed, deprioritized, or completed with fewer resources. The majority of the items were targeted for completion within 6 months of the SRM issuance, with the remaining to be completed within 12 or 18 months of the SRM issuance. On April 13, 2016, the Commission approved the staff's recommendations, with exception of delaying the Dodd-Frank Rulemaking. Item 110 of Enclosure 1 of SECY-16-009, directed NRC staff to revise IMC 2800 to allow for the addition of more flexibility and common-sense extensions to the inspection intervals of material licenses.

Discussion: In August 2016, a working group (WG) composed of NRC and Agreement State inspection staff was formed and tasked to address Item 110. The WG objectives were divided in two phases: (1) Phase One: conduct a limited revision of IMC 2800 to allow for more flexibility and logical extensions to the inspection intervals and to complete the Commission directed task by October 13, 2017, and (2) Phase Two: conduct a full revision of IMC 2800 after the completion of Phase One.

The WG is currently working on addressing the tasking on Phase One. The enclosed revisions to IMC 2800 have no adverse impact on the health and safety of the public, but enhances the ability to plan and conduct inspection activities in the most efficient way possible, consistent with NRC's mission, values, and the Principles of Good Regulation. A summary of the proposed revisions that were incorporated include: (1) changing the current 25 percent buffer to 50 percent for inspection timeliness, (2) extending the initial inspection period if licensees are not in possession of licensed material, and (3) allowing for extensions of inspection intervals based on good performance on a case-by-case basis.

Enclosed for your review and comment is a redline copy of the WG's proposed revisions to IMC 2800. The draft document is also available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System using Accession No. ML17062A547. Please note, only comments that pertain to the Commission direction provided in SECY16-009 will be addressed in Phase One due to the limited scope of the revision. Other comments will be addressed in the full revision during Phase Two.

The comment period for this document, which was developed following consultation with the Organization of Agreement States, ends on May 15, 2017. Please provide comments to the individuals named below:

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Enclosure:
Draft Inspection Manual Chapter 2800

/RA/

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