

NOTICE OF FINAL RULE SIGNED BY EDO

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS

On May 15, 2003, the Executive Director for Operations approved a final rule that amends 10 CFR Parts 72 and 73, entitled, "Event Notification Requirements." The Part 72 event notification requirements apply to Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI) and Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) installations. The Part 73 safeguards event notification requirements apply to reactor facilities, fuel cycle facilities, ISFSIs, MRSs, licensees who possess or transport special nuclear material or spent fuel, a geological repository operations area, and gaseous diffusion plants. Some changes will reduce licensee burden by consolidating some notifications and lengthening, where appropriate, the reporting period for other notifications. These changes will not impact public health and safety. New requirements will be added to permit the NRC to more effectively carry out its responsibilities during emergencies and in responding to public, media, and other stakeholder inquiries during events or conditions at licensees' facilities. These changes will also align the standards for both the event notification requirements and the safeguards event notification requirements with previous changes made to the power reactor event notification requirements in 10 CFR Part 50 made in a final rule issued on October 25, 2000 (65 FR 63769).

This notice informs the Commission that, in accordance with the rulemaking authority delegated to the EDO, the EDO has signed this final rule and proposes to forward it on May 23, 2003, to the Office of the Federal Register for publication, unless otherwise directed by the Commission.

This final rule does not constitute a significant question of policy, nor does it amend regulations contained in 10 CFR Parts 7, 8, or 9, Subpart C, concerning matters of policy.

The final rule can be found in ADAMS at ML031140033 .