



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC APPROVES WISCONSIN AGREEMENT TO REGULATE USE OF CERTAIN RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved an agreement with the State of Wisconsin to assume part of the agency's regulatory authority over certain radioactive materials in the State. With the approval, Wisconsin becomes the 33rd State to sign such an agreement with the NRC. The agreement will become effective on August 11.

Under the agreement, the NRC will transfer to Wisconsin the responsibility for licensing, rulemaking, inspection and enforcement activities for: (1) radioactive materials produced as a result of processes related to the production or utilization of special nuclear material (SNM) ; (2) uranium and thorium source materials; and (3) SNM in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass.

In addition, the NRC's approval will transfer to Wisconsin's jurisdiction 263 NRC licenses, most for medical and industrial uses of nuclear material. The NRC retains jurisdiction over about 10 nuclear materials licenses and over regulation of nuclear reactors in Wisconsin. It also will continue to regulate Federal agencies that use certain nuclear material in the State.

Before approving the agreement, NRC reviewed the State's radiation control program to ensure it was adequate to protect public health and safety and was compatible with NRC's program for regulating the radioactive materials covered in the agreement. An announcement of the proposed agreement was made earlier this year inviting comments from the public.

The agreement will be announced shortly in the *Federal Register*. Copies of the agreement, the Governor of Wisconsin's request and supporting documents, as well as the NRC staff's assessment also will be available through the NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC Public Document Room staff at 301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209, or by sending an e-mail message to pdr@nrc.gov .

Thirty-two other states have previously signed such agreements with NRC. They are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.

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