

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

March 1, 2013

**NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2013-02
IMPACT OF SEQUESTRATION ON NRC ACTIVITIES
AND NRC STAKEHOLDERS**

ADDRESSEES

All U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees, certificate holders, permit holders, applicants, Agreement State Radiation Control Program Directors, State Liaison Officers, and other interested stakeholders.

INTENT

The NRC is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to inform addressees of the impact of sequestration on NRC activities and NRC stakeholders. This RIS requires no action or written response on the part of an addressee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The NRC's overarching mission 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. NRC regulation affects a broad variety of facilities including nuclear power plants, fuel manufacturers, industrial facilities, and academic and medical facilities, among others.

The NRC, like other Federal agencies, is planning for the possibility of a sequestration required by the Budget Control Act of 2011, as amended by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Sequestration calls for broad, automatic, across-the-board cuts to most categories of government spending. For the NRC, the expected amount of the reduction is approximately \$52 million in Fiscal Year 2013. These cuts are currently scheduled to take effect on March 1, 2013.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

Should a sequestration occur, the NRC would need to take reductions that would impact certain programs. While these cuts will be challenging for the agency, the NRC will manage them in a way that will not negatively affect the NRC's ability to carry out its core mission with respect to operating nuclear facilities and use of nuclear material. The NRC plans to continue normal operations to the extent possible and to continue performing safety and security oversight of existing licensees. Specific program delays or deferrals that would take place should sequestration occur will be communicated to the affected NRC licensees, applicants or other stakeholders before being implemented.

BACKFIT DISCUSSION

The staff is not imposing any new or changed positions or regulatory requirements on licensees that constitute backfitting as defined in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.109(a)(1) and comparable provisions in other parts of the NRC regulations, nor is it proposing new or changed guidance that should be regarded as backfitting under NRC guidance. No action is required on the part of any licensee; therefore, this document does not constitute a backfit under applicable backfit regulations. Consequently, the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTIFICATION

The NRC did not publish a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS in the *Federal Register* because the RIS pertains to an administrative aspect of the regulatory process imposed by Federal law.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

The NRC has determined that this action is not a rule as designated by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 801–808) and, therefore, is not subject to the Act.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This RIS does not contain any information collections and, therefore, is not subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION

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 Office of Management and Budget control number.

CONTACTS

Please direct any questions about this matter to one of the contacts listed below.

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