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OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICES  
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PROPOSED RULE **PR 20**  
**(59FR47565)**

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November 11, 1994

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

ATTENTION: Secretary of the Commission  
Docketing and Services Branch

SUBJECT: Frequency of Medical Examinations for Use of Respiratory Protection Equipment  
(59FR47565)

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposal to amend the regulations concerning the frequency at which medical examinations are required to ensure the safe use of respiratory protection equipment. Section 10 CFR 20.1703(a)(3)(v) currently requires the determination by a physician prior to initial fitting of respirators, and at least every 12 months thereafter, that the individual user is physically able to use the respiratory protection equipment. The proposed revision would require determination by a physician prior to initial fitting of respirators and either every 12 months thereafter, or periodically at a frequency determined by a physician, that the individual user is medically fit to use the respiratory protection equipment.

We were pleased with the NRC's move to increase self-regulation in the area of respirator physicals. The industry has gained significant experience over the years in this area. We welcome the increased flexibility the proposed rule would allow.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Very truly yours,

RED/JMO/dlm

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Secretary of the Commission

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