

Request for Information on Potential Impacts of Draft REGDOC-2.13.1, *Safeguards and Nuclear Material Accountancy*

1. Preface

Acknowledging the draft nature of this document, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is seeking a preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of draft REGDOC 2.13.1, *Safeguards and Nuclear Material Accountancy*, should it receive Commission approval. The CNSC welcomes comments on this Request for Information as well as on the proposed regulatory document itself.

Comments could include additional information on potential impacts should the regulatory document be approved by the Commission and subsequently implemented. Should stakeholders decide to submit impact estimates, the CNSC encourages them to clearly state assumptions and provide enough detail to allow an independent observer to understand how the estimate was derived. Stakeholders could also propose potential alternative approaches that meet the document's safety objectives.

The CNSC will consider comments received. Comments will be included in the main regulatory document disposition table and may lead to modifications to the draft regulatory document.

In fulfilling its mandate as a federal regulator, the CNSC must also consider values and principles that are difficult to quantify with a dollar value. It must also give consideration to fulfilling its responsibility under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA) to disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information. In all cases, safety is the CNSC's top priority.

All comments received will become part of the public record.

2. Background

The *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. States that are party to the NPT have commitments and obligations in the areas of non-proliferation, disarmament, and the peaceful use of nuclear material and technology. To fulfil commitments made under the NPT, Canada has concluded binding safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which provide for the application of IAEA safeguards in Canada.

In this context, the term 'safeguards' refers to an international system of monitoring and verifying nuclear material which serves to deter the diversion of such material from legitimate peaceful activities. Safeguards are administered in Canada by the CNSC, and verified by the IAEA. Under the safeguards agreements, Canada has an obligation to report to the IAEA on all nuclear material and on certain types of nuclear research and manufacturing in Canada, and to accept IAEA inspections of those areas.

The NSCA gives the CNSC the mandate to achieve Canadian conformity with international obligations to which Canada has agreed, including the above-noted safeguards agreements. Nuclear material is defined by the safeguards agreements as any uranium, thorium, and plutonium-239, excluding naturally occurring forms.

3. Objectives

This regulatory document sets out graded requirements and guidance for safeguards programs for applicants and licensees who possess nuclear material, carry out specified types of nuclear fuel-cycle related research and development work, or carry out specified types of nuclear-related manufacturing. It may also serve as guidance for non-licensees who are impacted by the safeguards agreements.

REGDOC-2.13.1 aims to establish a common understanding of the information, access and support licensees are to provide to the CNSC and the IAEA to facilitate Canadian compliance with the safeguards agreements, and with licensee obligations established in the *General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations*.

This regulatory document consolidates all safeguards-related requirements into one reference document, for clarity and easy reference. If approved, the document will provide applicants and licensees with a single point of reference for safeguards requirements and guidance.

4. Regulatory approach

This regulatory document brings together existing requirements and guidance identified in RD-336, *Accounting and Reporting of Nuclear Material*, and GD-336, *Guidance for Accounting and Reporting of Nuclear Material* and codifies other existing safeguards requirements.

For the most part, licensees already meet the requirements contained in draft REGDOC-2.13.1. The following additional requirements are specified in this regulatory document:

- reporting to licensees' own security staff in specified instances (sections 5, 7.4)
- provision for the maintenance and calibration of instruments used for the measurement of safeguarded materials (section 7.1)
- measures to prevent the compromise of systems used to generate, store and transmit safeguards-relevant information (section 8.1.1)
- use of the CNSC's Nuclear Materials Accountancy Reporting (NMAR) e-business system to submit nuclear material accountancy reports (section 8.1.1)
- annual provision of an operational program and information required by the Additional Protocol (sections 8.3, 8.4)
Note: letters requesting this information will no longer be sent by the CNSC.
- the definition of retention periods for safeguards-related records (Section 9)
- reinstatement of the requirement to submit the Group 1A List of Inventory Items by the seventh business day after a physical inventory taking (appendix D, table D1)
- the inclusion of a report revision number and revision date to nuclear material accountancy reports (appendix D, table D2)

The graded approach documented in REGDOC-2.13.1 may reduce some administrative burden, depending upon the type and quantity of nuclear material in possession of a licensee, and based on the type of nuclear fuel-cycle-related research and development work or type of nuclear-related manufacturing carried out by a licensee.

REGDOC-2.13.1 is intended to form part of the licensing basis for a regulated facility or activity within the scope of the document. It is intended for inclusion in licences as either part of the

conditions and safety and control measures in a licence, or as part of the safety and control measures to be described in a licence application and the documents needed to support that application.

If approved for publication, REGDOC-2.13.1 will supersede RD-336, *Accounting and Reporting of Nuclear Material*, and GD-336, *Guidance for Accounting and Reporting of Nuclear Material*, which were both published in June, 2010.

The requirements and guidance in this document are essential to Canadian compliance with the safeguards agreements entered into with the IAEA, and are consistent with modern national and international practices.

5. Potential impacts

The CNSC welcomes stakeholder comments on potential impacts, should REGDOC-2.13.1 be approved. Stakeholders may consider impacts in terms of costs, operations or other impacts.

6. Feedback requested

Please submit comments or feedback to the CNSC by May 8 2017, in one of the following ways:

- Email: cncs.consultation.ccsn@canada.ca
- Mail: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
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- Fax: 613-995-5086