



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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ALL AGREEMENT STATES, CONNECTICUT  
NON-AGREEMENT STATES  
ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES

NOTIFICATION OF FUEL CYCLE AND MATERIALS DECOMMISSIONING INSPECTION  
PROGRAM UPDATE (STC-21-025)

**Purpose:** To inform the Agreement and Non-Agreement States and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) efforts to revise the Fuel Cycle and Materials Decommissioning Inspection Program currently provided in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2602 and associated Inspection Procedures.

**Background:** The NRC has established a Fuel Cycle and Materials Decommissioning Inspection Program Working Group (WG) to update the Fuel Cycle and Materials Decommissioning Inspection Program guidance. The revised program will implement Commission policy regarding risk-informed, performance-based inspections, and will identify and incorporate recent decommissioning guidance and regulatory changes into the inspection program. The revised decommissioning inspection program will apply to byproduct material, complex material, uranium recovery, and fuel cycle sites.

**Discussion:** In June 1998, the NRC staff proposed to the Commission new approaches to risk-informed, performance-based regulations. In March 1999, the Commission issued a Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) approving SECY-98-144, "White Paper on Risk-Informed and Performance-Based Regulation." The white paper defined key terminology and described how the new risk-informed, performance-based approach applies to various program areas including the inspection program.

IMC 2602 was last updated in July 2008. The revised IMC will apply to decommissioning inspections of licenses issued under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Parts 30, 40, and 70. This IMC does not apply to 10 CFR Part 50 decommissioning (i.e., reactor decommissioning). The IMC 2602 needs to be updated to implement the Commission instructions as provided in the SRM for SECY-98-144.

The WG plans to enhance the NRC's current inspection program and create inspection efficiencies in the decommissioning program, while ensuring that the changes implement the NRC's principles of good regulation: independence, openness, efficiency, clarity, and reliability. The NRC plans to hold a public meeting on June 9, 2021, to discuss NRC the Fuel Cycle and Materials Decommissioning Inspection Program. More information can be found on the NRC webpage <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact the individual named below:

POINT OF CONTACT: Maurice Heath                      E-MAIL: [Maurice.Heath@nrc.gov](mailto:Maurice.Heath@nrc.gov)  
TELEPHONE: (301) 415-3137

Sincerely,



Signed by Anderson, Brian  
on 05/13/21

Brian C. Anderson, Chief  
State Agreement and Liaison Programs Branch  
Division of Materials Safety, Security, State  
and Tribal Programs  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards