



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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ALL AGREEMENT STATES
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NOTIFICATION OF UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO OBTAIN FEEDBACK ABOUT THE
NRC INSPECTIONS IN THE NMSS PROGRAM AREAS DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY (STC-21-052)

Purpose: To provide notice that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), will be holding two public meetings on **July 26, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET** and on **August 3, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET**, regarding the NMSS COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Oversight Activities Assessment Phase B Working Group (the Working Group). The purpose of these meetings is to obtain feedback concerning the implementation of NRC inspections in the NMSS Program areas (Nuclear Materials Users, Spent Fuel and Transportation, Fuel Cycle Facilities, Uranium Recovery and Decommissioning). Participant feedback will be considered by the Working Group when forming recommendations on potential enhancements to the inspection programs based on what has been experienced and learned during the COVID-19 PHE.

Background: NMSS is conducting a *COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Oversight Activities Assessment* to evaluate the practices, adjustments, processes, and different inspection techniques used to carry out our important oversight function associated with the Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety Programs. This assessment should provide recommendations to enable NMSS activities to become more agile, resilient, and efficient both during future PHEs and when operating under normal circumstances.

The assessment will evaluate the various practices, adjustments, processes, and inspection techniques utilized to implement the nuclear materials and waste oversight programs during the COVID-19 PHE and develop recommendations to:

- (1) enhance the implementation of these programs during the current, ongoing COVID-19 PHE;
- (2) ensure inspection programs are adequately prepared for future public health emergencies; and
- (3) utilize experiences during COVID-19 to enhance any aspects of the current framework for the oversight programs (e.g., inspection planning practices, guidance, communications) to ensure we continue to implement comprehensive, consistent, resilient, and modern oversight programs into the future.

More specifically, the Working Group seeks to:

- a) Design and deploy various feedback mechanisms (e.g. interviews, surveys) that will build upon the feedback received during Phase A of this effort to assist in their

evaluation. The feedback sources should be diverse, including input from all regions and programs, various staff grade levels, the different roles in the oversight programs, and expertise, and include external stakeholders' feedback (e.g. licensees, public) to include Agreement States.

b) Gather and document the various practices, processes, inspection techniques, communications, and adjustments implemented by each program (Nuclear Materials Users, Spent Fuel and Transportation, Fuel Cycle Facilities, Uranium Recovery and Decommissioning) during the COVID-19 PHE and assess their effectiveness, efficiency, and consistency. This includes evaluating virtual or remote inspection practices and techniques.

c) Identify inspection areas in each program are most suitable for remote inspection from this point forward.

d) Determine modifications made to the program during COVID should be adopted to further evolve these programs to be more current, modern, flexible, robust, and consistent across business lines.

e) Document best practices and challenges from the implementation of the oversight programs encountered during the COVID-19 PHE.

Discussion: The meetings will be held virtually on July 26, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET and on August 3, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Information to participate by phone or webinar can be found on the NRC's Public Meeting Web site (<https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>).

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the individuals named below:

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