



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULE TO EXPEDITE REVIEW OF ACCESS DETERMINATIONS FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION FOR HEARINGS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations governing when expedited appellate review by the Commission is permitted in NRC adjudicatory proceedings. The proposed rule would make an important difference in how quickly certain petitioners can seek redress if they believe they've been unjustly denied access to sensitive information necessary to participate in a hearing. The protected information covered in this new rule is both sensitive unclassified non-safeguards information (SUNSI) and Safeguards Information (SGI).

Potential parties who request a hearing or petition to intervene in a hearing under 10 CFR Part 2 may need access to SUNSI and/or SGI to meet Commission requirements for hearing requests or for intervention. The proposed rule would permit a petitioner denied access to the sensitive information to appeal that denial to the Commission without waiting for a ruling on its entire hearing request or a ruling completing a hearing. This new proposed rule could enhance both public involvement in NRC adjudicatory proceedings and the effectiveness and efficiency of these proceedings.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the proposed rule within 30 days of publication in the *Federal Register* to guarantee consideration by the NRC. Comments submitted later than this date may be considered if practical. Comments can be mailed to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff.

Comments can also be hand-carried to 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md., between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on federal work days, or they can be faxed to 301-415-1101. E-mail comments can also be sent to SECY@nrc.gov. In addition, comments can also be submitted through the NRC's eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The entire proposed rule will also be available at that Web location.

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