



NRC NEWS

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NRC SUBMITS INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT ON RADIATION SOURCE PROTECTION AND SECURITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has submitted the second report of the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force to President Obama and Congress, outlining the federal government's efforts over the past four years to enhance the security of radioactive sources.

The task force was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, with the NRC as its chair, to evaluate and provide recommendations on the security of radiation sources in the United States from potential criminal or terrorist threats, including acts of sabotage, theft or use in a "dirty bomb." The task force consists of representatives from NRC; the departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Energy, Transportation, Justice, State and Health and Human Services; the Director of National Intelligence; the Environmental Protection Agency; the CIA and FBI; the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors and Organization of Agreement States.

The legislation required a task force report in 2006 and every four years thereafter. The 2006 report described efforts planned or underway to strengthen regulatory controls and made several recommendations to enhance the overall security of risk-significant radioactive materials, such as sources used in irradiators, radiography and certain radiation cancer treatments.

In the four years since the first report, the task force has met routinely to discuss progress and evaluate the protection and security of risk-significant radioactive materials. The 2010 task force report, submitted to the president and Congress on Aug. 11, presents the status of the recommendations and actions from the 2006 report as well as new recommendations in the following areas:

- Coordination and communication improvements among government agencies and the public
- Advances in the security and controls of radioactive sources
- Recovery and disposition of unused radioactive sources, and
- Alternative technologies that could perform all or some of the functions of radiation sources.

The task force will continue to meet to implement and monitor the progress of efforts to improve the security of radioactive sources and identify any additional gaps that may arise.

More information about the task force, including the 2010 and 2006 reports, is available on the NRC website at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/security/byproduct/task-force.html>.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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