

No: 14-035

June 11, 2014

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NRC Issues Annual Report on Abnormal Occurrences for FY2013

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released its annual report on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2013, citing 10 events involving radioactive materials. During this reporting period, no events at NRC-licensed facilities, including nuclear power plants, were significant enough to be reported as abnormal occurrences.

An accident or event is considered an abnormal occurrence if it involves a major reduction in the degree of protection of public health and safety. Abnormal occurrences can include, but are not necessarily limited to, moderate exposure to or release of radioactive material licensed by the NRC or a state agency; major degradation of safety-related equipment; or major deficiencies in design, construction, use of, or management controls for facilities or radioactive material.

For FY 2013, the 10 abnormal occurrences reported happened in Agreement States. (The NRC has agreements with 37 states under which the states regulate industrial and medical uses of radioactive materials.) Two of the events involved exposure of an embryo or fetus, and the remaining eight involved misadministration of radioactive material during diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. An estimated 16 million medical procedures involving radioactive materials are performed in U.S. medical facilities each year. Three of the 10 events occurred in previous fiscal years and are included because the NRC completed its evaluation of these events in FY 2013.

The report details investigation of each incident by the NRC, state agencies and licensees, as well as measures taken to ensure such incidents do not recur.

A section on “other events of interest” discusses four events that do not meet the abnormal occurrence criteria but have been perceived by Congress or the public to be of high health and safety significance, have received significant media coverage, or have caused the NRC to increase its attention to or oversight of a program area. Three of these events occurred at nuclear power plants, and one involved a nuclear fuel facility. This section includes updates to other events of interest reported in previous annual reports.

The report on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2013 is published as NUREG-0090, Volume 36. It was transmitted to Congress on June 6 and is available on the [NRC website](http://www.nrc.gov).