DRAFT REGULATORY GUIDE DG-8035
(Proposed Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 8.2, dated February 1973)

ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES IN RADIATION SURVEYS AND MONITORING

A. INTRODUCTION

This guide provides guidance acceptable to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff for use in complying with the NRC’s regulations for administrative practices associated with surveys and monitoring of ionizing radiation in licensed institutions; it is intended primarily for administrative and management personnel in organizations that are involved in, or are planning to initiate, activities involving the handling of radioactive materials or radiation. This guide replaces the existing Regulatory Guide 8.2, “Guide for Administrative Practices in Radiation Monitoring” (Ref. 1), issued February 1973.

The regulatory requirements for radiation surveys and monitoring that are applicable to all licensees are specified in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, “Standards for Protection against Radiation” (10 CFR Part 20) (Ref. 2). In 10 CFR 20.1101, “Radiation Protection Programs,” the NRC requires licensees to develop, document, and implement a radiation protection program commensurate with the scope and extent of licensed activities and sufficient to ensure compliance with 10 CFR Part 20. In 10 CFR 20.1501, “General,” the NRC requires surveys to be made in order to comply with the regulations. In 10 CFR 20.1502, “Conditions Requiring Individual Monitoring of External and Internal Occupational Dose,” the NRC requires licensees to monitor occupational exposure to radiation sources sufficient to demonstrate compliance with regulatory occupational dose limits. Also, the regulations in 10 CFR 20.2102, “Records of Radiation Protection Programs,” and 10 CFR 2103, “Records of Surveys,” require licensees to maintain records of surveys and radiation exposures to individuals.

The NRC issues regulatory guides to describe to the public methods that the staff considers acceptable for use in implementing specific parts of the agency’s regulations, to explain techniques that the staff uses in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and to provide guidance to applicants. Regulatory guides are not substitutes for regulations and compliance with them is not required.
This regulatory guide contains information collection requirements covered by 10 CFR Part 20 that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved under OMB control number 3150-0014. The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection request or requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

B. DISCUSSION

Providing for safety in the use of radioactive materials and radiation is a management responsibility intended to achieve occupational doses and doses to members of the public that are as low as is reasonably achievable. Radiation surveys and monitoring are important elements in the overall requirements for an effective radiation protection program.

In 10 CFR 20.1003, “Definitions,” the NRC defines “survey” as an evaluation of the radiological conditions and potential hazards incident to the production, use, transfer, release, disposal, or presence of radioactive material or other sources of radiation. When appropriate, such an evaluation includes a physical survey of the location of radioactive material and measurements or calculations of levels of radiation, or concentrations or quantities of radioactive material present. “Monitoring” is defined as the measurement of radiation levels, concentrations, surface area concentrations, or quantities of radioactive material and the use of the results of these measurements to evaluate potential exposures and doses.


The NRC staff has developed specific guidance for materials licensees (such as medical, academic, and industrial uses of byproduct material) on administrative practices for radiation surveys and monitoring, which is provided in NUREG-1556, “Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses,” Volumes 1–18 and Volumes 20–21, with various issue dates (Refs. 4–23). Guidance pertinent to all licensees appears in NUREG-1736, “Consolidated Guidance: 10 CFR Part 20—Standards for Protection against Radiation,” issued October 2001 (Ref. 24). These NUREGs provide useful additional information that is relevant to surveys and monitoring and may be used to supplement the guidance provided here.

C. REGULATORY POSITION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1101, 10 CFR 20.1501, 10 CFR 20.1502, and 10 CFR 20.2102–2103, licensees are required to implement an effective radiation survey and monitoring program to demonstrate compliance with NRC regulations. In complying with this requirement, licensees should consider the following items as possible elements in such a program. The list is not exhaustive, and some facilities may find it necessary to incorporate additional elements into their programs. Also, some of the items may be suitable mainly for larger, more complex operations and may not be necessary for smaller operations.

a. Ensure that the survey and monitoring program, which is usually part of the radiation control program, is under management that is independent of the operational organization and reports directly to a sufficiently high level of the licensee’s management.

b. Ensure that the survey and monitoring program is incorporated into the initial design of the facility and its operating procedures.
c. Establish and implement clear policies that stress the importance of the program in ensuring radiation safety and emphasizing management’s commitment to its implementation and quality.

d. Allocate adequate resources and funding to meet specified commitments of the survey and monitoring program, and ensure the availability of a sufficient number of qualified and trained staff.

e. Specify the radiation safety officer (RSO)/radiation protection manager (RPM) who will be responsible for implementing the survey and monitoring program for the facility.

f. Consider the qualifications, training, and experience required of the RSO/RPM.

g. Ensure the availability of enough applicable instrumentation for use in surveying and monitoring, and establish a program that is devoted to the calibration, functional checks, and maintenance of such instrumentation.

h. Ensure that traceability to national standards is maintained where required and that personnel monitoring services are appropriately accredited to provide these services.

i. Develop and implement procedures that specify the types of and frequencies for performing special or nonroutine surveys and monitoring.

j. Ensure that a system is in place indicating specific pre-job and post-job reviews of any task with a potential for a radiological hazard that exceeds predetermined levels.

k. Perform periodic independent audits, as appropriate, of the survey and monitoring program, possibly as part of an audit of the radiation protection program, to identify any weaknesses in that program as well as areas for improvement.

l. Conduct periodic training, as appropriate, to update the staff on changes in the program, equipment, and facility, to review past experience and industry events, and to emphasize any relevant aspects of program performance.

m. Ensure that records of surveys and monitoring results are maintained for documentation.

**D. IMPLEMENTATION**

The purpose of this section is to provide information to applicants and licensees regarding the NRC’s plans for using this draft regulatory guide. The NRC does not intend or approve any imposition or backfit in connection with its issuance.

The NRC has issued this draft guide to encourage public participation in its development. The NRC will consider all public comments received in development of the final guidance document. In some cases, applicants or licensees may propose an alternative or use a previously established acceptable alternative method for complying with specified portions of the NRC’s regulations. Otherwise, the methods described in this guide will be used in evaluating compliance with the applicable regulations for license applications, license amendment applications, and amendment requests.
REFERENCES


1 Publicly available NRC published documents are available electronically through the electronic Reading room on the NRC’s public Web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/. The documents can also be viewed on-line or printed for a fee in the NRC’s Public Documents Room (PDR) at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD; the mailing address is USNRC PDR, Washington, DC 20555; telephone (301) 415-4737 or (800) 397-4209; fax (301) 415-3548; and e-mail PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.

2 Copies may be purchased from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 1819 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 [phone: 202-293-8020]. Purchase information is available through the NCRP Web site at http://www.ansi.org.


