

allow higher radiation levels for certain packages, such as portable microreactors under exclusive use controls.

The NRC sees microreactor technology as potentially vital during future post-natural disaster emergency responses and for remote power supply. Existing regulations would require transportation packages to have additional shielding to keep radiation levels at or below 10 millirem per hour (mrem/h) at 2 meters from the vehicle. The proposed rule would increase the limit to 50 mrem/h at 2 meters in this type of scenario, a threshold that, it states, would fall “well within the current annual 10 CFR Part 20 public radiation level limit.” The licensee would still have to go through other federal, state, and local officials to address the safe transportation of the material and technologies through their respective jurisdictions, if required.

The proposed rule aims to reduce the weight of required packaging. NRC staff said they anticipate that lighter packages could be shipped faster and would also result in cost savings in fuel use and vehicle maintenance and repair.

ISOTOPE ISOLATION

British researchers test concrete method for Sr-90 treatment

Researchers from the University of Manchester, the U.K. National Nuclear Laboratory, and Clemson University have studied using crushed concrete at legacy nuclear facilities as a long-term sink for strontium-90, a radioactive contaminant found at many such sites. Their research has been published

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