

AGENCY COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Communications Plans:

Communications plans are used to deliver a consistent and accurate message about a project, issue, or event to all stakeholders in a timely fashion. They describe key messages, timelines, and methods for communicating a project or event with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) stakeholders. Using existing guidance on communications plans, staff would develop a generic plan for 10 CFR 20.2002 authorizations, explaining, for example,

- Why 10 CFR 20.2002's authorizations are needed.
- The history of 10 CFR 20.2002 in NRC regulations.
- How safety is assured when NRC reviews a 10 CFR 20.2002 request.
- How any potential environmental impacts are evaluated.
- What materials are typically disposed of under 10 CFR 20.2002 and their relative hazard.
- How 10 CFR 20.2002 disposals are similar or dissimilar to other types of radioactive wastes and their disposal (e.g., Technically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material and higher activity low-level waste).
- How to get additional information from NRC.

Communications plans might also be developed to address specific 10 CFR 20.2002 requests that meet pre-defined criteria that call for extra outreach measures. These plans would focus on the specifics of the request – (a) the stakeholders directly affected; (b) the facility proposed for the disposal; (c) the concentrations and amounts of material proposed for disposal; and (d) the resulting doses, etc.

Backgrounder:

A “backgrounder” is a summary that outlines NRC responsibilities and activities related to a broad topic of interest that has been or will be in the news for an extended period of time. It can be used by the public and internal stakeholders to obtain information on a topic of interest. Backgrounders are posted on the public web site. NRC's public web site currently has a backgrounder on “radioactive waste,” and this document would be updated to include information on 10 CFR 20.2002 disposal authorizations.

Fact Sheet:

A fact sheet is a concise, one-page description of the current status of a relatively specific activity, and is available to the public on the NRC web site. It is to be used to highlight an important milestone, goal, or product, or used to respond to, or clarify, misleading information from other sources. For 10 CFR 20.2002 authorizations, a fact sheet would be prepared when there is a specific approval that meets certain defined criteria. Most 10 CFR 20.2002 requests would not be expected to have fact sheets.