



EPA Review of its UMTRCA Based Regulations

**NMA Uranium Recovery Workshop
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Overview

- **Existing regulations 40 CFR Part 192**
- **Reason for review**
- **How the review is being conducted**
- **Public input**



Existing Regulations 40 CFR Part 192

Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings

- **EPA develops standards**
- **Utilized by NRC and its Agreement States, and DOE**
 - ✓ **Subpart A. Standards for the control of residual radioactive materials from inactive uranium processing sites**
 - ✓ **Subpart B. Standards for cleanup of land and buildings contaminated with residual radioactive materials from inactive uranium processing sites**
 - ✓ **Subpart C. Implementation**



Existing Regulations 40 CFR Part 192

Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings

- ✓ **Subpart D. Standards for management of uranium byproduct materials pursuant to Section 84 of the Atomic Energy Act as Amended**
- ✓ **Subpart E. Standards for management of thorium byproduct materials pursuant to Section 84 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended**



Reason for Review

- **Over 25 years since originally finalized, 15 years since last update for groundwater protection**
- **Lacks explicit provisions for In Situ Leach/Recovery (ISL/ISR), now principal means of uranium recovery in U.S., and for heap leach facilities**
- **Changes in EPA protective standards for hazardous substances in groundwater and drinking water**
- **Changes in economics of extraction & site remediation**



Reason for Review

- **Changes in dose and risk factors for radiation/radon,**
 - ✓ principal scenarios for exposure,
 - ✓ subsistence and cultural lifestyles of affected communities,
 - ✓ free release of sites (ISL/ISR's) after decommissioning

- **Potential for uranium extraction in different geographic locations than those considered in risk assessments in previous standards**



How the Review is Being Conducted

- **This effort is to conduct a regulatory review, there is no docket**
- **No publication of Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register**
- **Active use of public outreach and agency data collection to obtain information for review**



How the Review is Being Conducted

- **EPA Work Group is conducting analyses of standards in 40 CFR Part 192**
- **Work Group comparison of existing rule standards with**
 - ✓ **history of performance of facilities**
 - ✓ **implementation of standards by regulatory agencies**
 - ✓ **impacts on Tribes, environmental justice communities, children's health, general public**
 - ✓ **changes in EPA standards, new Executive Orders, new statutes, other national and international protectiveness standards**



How the Review is Being Conducted

- **Work Group to review embedded standards:**
 - ✓ **definitions of terms**
 - ✓ **radon and air protection**
 - ✓ **public health and radiation protection**
 - ✓ **ground and surface water protection**
 - ✓ **environmental**



How the Review is Being Conducted

- **Are provisions in 40 CFR Part 192 for Title I closed sites, and contaminated soil and buildings still protective, and should the standards remain the same?**
- **Are provisions in 40 CFR Part 192 for Title II active conventional mills still protective, and should the standards remain the same?**
- **Are provisions in 40 CFR Part 192 for active conventional mills appropriate for ISL/ISR facilities, heap leach, and co-mineral processing sites?**



How the Review is Being Conducted

- **If the review determines a need for new standards, EPA will take into consideration:**
 - ✓ **How to balance environmental compliance costs and benefits**
 - ✓ **Public health, environmental protection and safety benefits**
 - ✓ **Impacts on implementing agencies**
 - ✓ **Impacts on industry**
 - ✓ **Economic and societal impacts**



Public Input

- **Federal Agency Coordination**
- **Industry**
- **States**
- **Tribes – EJ**
- **Environmental and other NGO's**
- **General Public**



Public Input

- **Informal public information meetings**
- **Stakeholder conferences**
- **Webinars and/or phone conferences**
- **Tribal consultations**



Public Input



- **Interactive Internet Site – Discussion Forum**
<http://blog.epa.gov/milltailingsblog/>
 - ✓ **Site for public input on discussion topics for this review**
 - ✓ **Calendar of events**
 - ✓ **Library of relevant documents**
- **Email address for additional public input:**
UraniumReview@epa.gov



Questions?

VALLEY DRIVE

ENGLISH

The Valley drive is an unpaved 17 miles loop road. Allow approximately 2 hours for the trip at a speed limit of 15mph. Most conventional vehicles can be driven into the valley. But small, low-clearance vehicles and vehicles over 27 feet are not permissible. All entries must be after sunrise, and out by sundown.

DEUTSCH

Die 17 Meilen Rundfahrt über Schotterwege kann von den meisten üblichen Fahrzeugen befahren werden. Fahrzeuge mit geringer Bodenfreiheit oder über 27 Fuß (ca. 7m) Länge sind nicht zugelassen.

Die Rundfahrt dauert et. 1½ bis 2 Std. Beachten Sie alle Fahrtrichtungen. Die Geschwindigkeitsbegrenzung ist 15mph. Die Rundfahrt ist nur zwischen Sonnenaufgang und Sonnenuntergang

FRENCH

La route non pavée qui traverse la vallée est 27 km de longueur et peut être parcourue en 2 heures à la vitesse maximale permise de 15 miles (24km) par heure. La plupart des voitures peuvent passer sur la route, y compris des compactes basses et des véhicules de plus de 7 mètres de longueur. La route touristique est ouverte dès le lever du soleil jusqu'à tomber du jour.

MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME

VALLEY DRIVE HOURS

NO SOONER THAN: 8:00 AM

NO LATER THAN: 4:00 PM

CLOSED: THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS
HOLIDAYS WHEN ROAD IS
HAZARDOUS & IMPASSABLE.

