Territories Safeguards Agreement's small quantities protocol (SQP).

The safeguards agreement—which entered into force in 1989, pursuant to U.S. obligations under the Treaty of Tlatelolco (the 50th anniversary of which was commemorated earlier this year [*NN*, Apr. 2017, p. 21])—originally included an SQP that held in abeyance nearly all of its reporting and access requirements. (SQPs are designed to reduce the burden of safeguards implementation on states with minimal nuclear activities while retaining the integrity of the safeguards system, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.) In 2005, however, as part of its efforts to bolster international safeguards, the IAEA began urging countries to adopt modified SQPs with more robust requirements. In August 2016, the U.S. State Department successfully negotiated with the IAEA a revised SQP for the Caribbean agreement.

The new SQP affects all entities that possess source material and special nuclear material (SNM) within the U.S. Caribbean territories, defined as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Navassa Island, Serranilla Bank, Baja Nuevo (Petrel Island), and the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. (There are no NRC-licensed entities in the Caribbean territories currently possessing SNM, according to the agency.)

The NRC's final rule revises 10 CFR Part 75, *Safeguards on Nuclear Material—Implementation of U.S.-IAEA Agreement*, to require affected entities to provide the following:

- Basic information about the material user, including name and address, organizational structure, geographic location, use of the material, and other relevant information.
- Annual inventory reports of all material possessed. This requirement will also include source material that is contained in nonnuclear end-use applications, such as depleted uranium shielding.
- Annual material status reports for nuclear materials covered by the applicable provisions of the U.S.–IAEA Agreement.
- An inventory change report when possessors import or export material, as well as advance notification of such an import or export exceeding 1 effective kilogram.
- Access for IAEA inspections. The scope of these inspections, which are expected to occur infrequently, may include several activities, such as examining records, verifying the functionality and calibration of instruments, and utilizing IAEA equipment for independent measurement, containment, and/or surveillance.

In her official comments on the matter, NRC Chairman Kristine Svinicki stated, "My approval does not indicate support for the increased administrative regulatory burden on impacted licensees, which has not been cost-justified through cost-benefit analysis. Rather, I approve issuance of the final rule in acknowledgement of the nondiscretionary nature of this rulemaking, as driven by treaty obligations of the United States." She also noted that the NRC staff estimates that only two small entities would be affected by the new SQP.

The final rule will go into effect 30 days after its publication in the *Federal Register*, which at this writing had not yet occurred. Compliance with the rule is required 60 days after its *FR* publication.

NONPROLIFERATION

Study: Nuclear programs don't up proliferation risk

The fall 2017 edition of the journal *International Security* features a study suggesting that contrary to popular belief, a country's having a nuclear energy program does not notably increase the odds that nuclear weapons will be sought or acquired.

The study, conducted at Dartmouth College, analyzes the relationship between such programs and nuclear proliferation from 1954 to 2000. Among the findings

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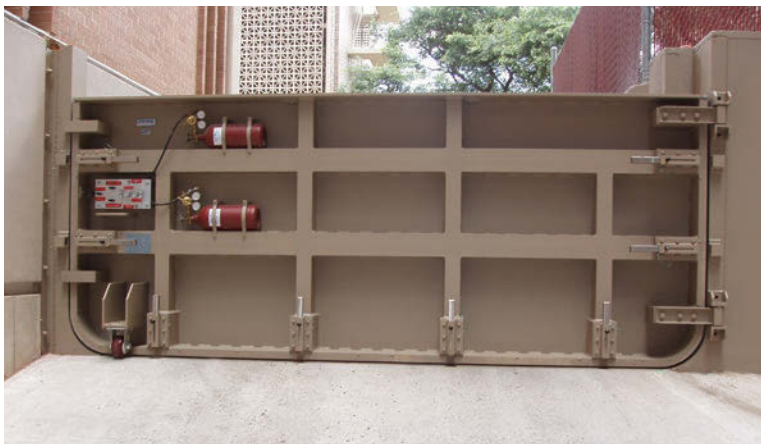
- Flood Protection Doors & Barriers
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- NUPIC Approved to 10CFR50 Appendix B