

EPA-5617

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To

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REGULATIONS.docx



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1. The status of EPA rule-making / reviews for uranium mines and mills (<http://www.epa.gov/radiation/>)
2. Is the agency combining Subpart W with 40 CFR 192 rule making?
3. And any perspective on environmental group concerns that the agency is not moving quickly enough or being transparent enough with the process?

ANSWERS

There are two rules that pertain to uranium mills:

1. Radon Emission Standards for Operating Uranium Mill Tailings (NESHAP Subpart W.)
2. Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings (40 CFR 192)

EPA has no plans to combine the two rules.

EPA does plan to propose revisions to Subpart W. The revisions are currently undergoing final review. We expect to issue a proposed rule later this year.

EPA has completed a review of the standards at 40 CFR 192, and concluded it would be appropriate to issue standards that address ground water issues at uranium in-situ recovery process. EPA is still reviewing technical and regulatory aspects of issues, and plans to a proposed rule early next year.

For the past couple of years EPA has been discussing these regulations and potential revisions with affected stakeholders in meetings, conference calls, and on-line media. When EPA publishes proposed rules the Federal Register, the public will have the opportunity to submit comments on the proposals. EPA will consider the comments as it finalizes the rules.