hardened on-site storage at all nuclear power plants, as well as dry cask spent fuel storage sites away from operating reactors.

The NRC, in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, issued security orders to ISFSI licensees, and in 2007, the commission approved a staff recommendation to develop a rulemaking to “establish a risk-informed and performance-based approach to ISFSI security using scenarios and dose calculations that considered site-specific information.” After suspending work on the rulemaking for a time, the commission directed the staff in 2018 to proceed with the rulemaking “with the exclusive scope of codifying the requirements of the post-9/11 security orders into the NRC’s regulations.”

While developing a revised regulatory basis for the rulemaking, NRC staff conducted a preliminary cost and benefit analysis of continuing work on the rule. The staff found that the proposed rule “would not further improve the public health and safety or the common defense and security and would not be cost-justified.” In 2019, the staff requested commissioner approval to discontinue the rulemaking and deny the C-10 petition.

NRC Chairman Christopher Hanson and Commissioner Jeff Baran voted to disapprove the staff’s request to discontinue the rulemaking and deny the petition, while Commissioner David Wright voted to approve. The majority commissioners asked agency staff for an “analysis of more options for the scope of the rule and the potential regulatory, resource, and timing impacts of those options.”

Source Points continues