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Increased Safety Measures for Removal of Self-Shielded Irradiators Containing Category 1 and 2 Sealed Radioactive Sources

In response to lessons learned from a 2019 contamination incident during a source removal in Seattle, WA, the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA), Office of Radiological Security's (ORS) Off-Site Source Recovery Program (OSRP) has implemented new procedures and contracting requirements to enhance safety during the removal of self-shielded irradiators containing Category 1 and 2 sealed radioactive sources. These new measures are applied based on the risk of each removal, which is determined by the irradiator and shipping configuration. For lowest risk removals, the entire irradiator is packaged in a certified transportation container after the electronics and motor, etc. are removed. If the radioactive sealed source are removed from the source holder and packaged into a certified transportation container would be the highest risk removals.

New OSRP safety requirements include submission of detailed work-control documents, including site-specific hazard analyses and emergency response plans, which will be reviewed by an independent panel of subject matter experts. All parties, including the in-site facilities representative, contractors, and regulators have the right to pause work in the event of an unanticipated condition related to safety or other events that may impact the removal work. These improvements to OSRP's irradiator removal process were developed to address lessons learned from a recent contamination event and ensure safe and secure disposition of these Category 1 and 2 sealed radioactive sources.

Do you wish to participate as a Young Professional?

No

Speaker's title

Ms

Affiliation

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Do you wish to be considered for a Young Professional grant?

No

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