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## **NFS working hard to improve 'Event Notifications' with NRC**

By Betty Chandler  
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In a document entitled, "Event Notification Report for May 12, 2008," the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operations Center released public reports of events occurring at regulated facilities around the country over the past several years. The report brings positive news for Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., of Erwin, and contains only updated information from the NRC.

The report noted that due to the 9/11 attack on our nation, the individual reports were originally withheld from public release under the NRC's policy for protecting sensitive unclassified information. The report further states that none of the event notifications were "new," but instead included incidents between January 1, 2004 and December, 2007. Only a few of the later reports provided occurred in 2008, and none were related to Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin. Approximately 30 events involved NFS in Erwin.

Several nuclear facilities are included in the Event Notification Report, including BWX Technologies in Lynchburg, VA. Reports also included the firms of Accurate NDE and Inspection, LLC of Louisiana; Salem, NJ Power Reactor; DOW Chemical Company of Midland, MI; AREVA NP Inc. Richland; Wolf Creek of Kansas; and Watts Bar in Tennessee.

According to the May 12, 2008 report, the NRC has reevaluated this policy and is now making these event reports available to the public with noted redactions, or some specific material not being included, following a thorough review.

The Event Notification Report is available at the NRC website. The information contained is basically a revision of previously reported incidents in the nuclear industry.

All of the reports concerning Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. were considered "Non Emergency Class." Two "Alert Emergency Class" reports were noted for BWX Technologies in Lynchburg, VA. The reports were released following a complete review and updating of initial reports made at the time of the incidents.

Since the initial incidents were reported, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. has come under new management. At present, the facility is planning on spending several million dollars on improvements. The plan must first be reviewed and approved by the NRC. To date, there has been no word on the improvement plan.