

5.7 Atomic Energy Act



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The *Atomic Energy Act* was promulgated to assure the proper management of radioactive materials. The act and its amendments have delegated the roles and responsibilities for the control of radioactive materials and nuclear energy primarily to DOE, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and EPA.

Under the act, DOE regulates the control of radioactive materials under its authority including the treatment, storage, and disposal of low-level radioactive waste from its operations. Sections of the act authorize DOE to set radiation protection standards for itself and its contractors.

Accordingly, DOE promulgated a series of regulations (e.g., 10 CFR 820, 10 CFR 830, and 10 CFR 835) and Orders (e.g., DOE Order 435.1, and DOE Order 5400.5) to protect public health and the environment from potential risks associated with radioactive materials. Operations at the Hanford Site are subject to the requirements in these regulations and Orders. There were no significant revisions to these regulations or Orders affecting operations at the Hanford Site in 2004.

