

§674. State Radiation Control Agency

1. Designated. The Department of Health and Human Services, in this chapter referred to as the "department," is designated as the State Radiation Control Agency.

[PL 1983, c. 345, §§13, 14 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6 (REV).]

2. Commissioner. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall be referred to as the "commissioner," who shall perform the functions vested in the department pursuant to this Act.

[PL 1983, c. 345, §§13, 14 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §7 (REV).]

3. Employees. In accordance with the laws of this State, the department may employ, compensate and prescribe the powers and duties of such individuals as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

[PL 1983, c. 345, §§13, 14 (NEW).]

4. Authority. The department, for the protection of the public health and safety:

A. Shall develop programs for the evaluation and control of hazards associated with use of sources of radiation; [PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD).]

B. Shall develop programs with due regard for compatibility with federal programs for regulation of by-product, source and special nuclear materials; [PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD).]

C. Shall develop programs with due regard for consistency with federal programs for regulation of radiation generating equipment; [PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD).]

D. Shall formulate, adopt, promulgate and repeal codes and rules, which may provide for licensing or registration, relating to control of sources of radiation with due regard for compatibility with the regulatory programs of the Federal Government.

Promulgate such rules in addition to the rule specified in this paragraph as are appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act, including, but not limited to, rules concerning acquisition, ownership, possession and use of radioactive materials or devices or equipment utilizing radioactive material; [PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD).]

E. Shall issue such orders or modifications thereof as may be necessary in connection with proceedings under section 677; [PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD).]

F. Shall advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies of the State, Federal Government, other states and interstate agencies, political subdivisions and other organizations concerned with control of sources of radiation; [PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD).]

G. May accept and administer loans, grants or other funds or gifts, conditional or otherwise, in furtherance of its functions, from the Federal Government and from other sources, public or private; [PL 1983, c. 345, §§13, 14 (NEW).]

H. Shall encourage, participate in, or conduct studies, investigations, training, research and demonstrations relating to control of sources of radiation; [PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §67 (RPR).]

I. Shall collect and disseminate information relating to control of sources of radiation, including:

- (1) Maintenance of a file of all license applications, issuances, denials, amendments, transfers, renewals, modifications, suspensions and revocations;
- (2) Maintenance of a file of registrants possessing sources of radiation requiring registration under this Act and any administrative or judicial action pertaining to this Act; and
- (3) Maintenance of a file of all of the department's rules relating to regulation of sources of radiation, pending or promulgated, and any connected proceedings; [PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §67 (RPR).]

J. May investigate and sample sites where radioactive substances or devices are stored or handled to identify uncontrolled radioactive substance sites; [PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §68 (RPR).]

K. May take whatever action is deemed necessary to abate, clean up or mitigate the threats or hazards posed or potentially posed by radioactive material or radiation-generating equipment to protect the public health, safety or welfare or the environment, including administering or carrying out measures to abate, clean up or mitigate the threats or hazards and implementing remedies to remove, store, treat, dispose of or otherwise handle radioactive material, including soil and water contaminated by the material; [PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §68 (RPR).]

L. Shall establish and maintain a continuous radiation monitoring system to record the radioactive levels of gaseous and liquid discharges from any commercial nuclear power facility operating in the State; [PL 1991, c. 496, §2 (AMD).]

M. Shall establish and maintain an off-site monitoring network to provide continuous monitoring of gamma radiation levels within the vicinity of any commercial nuclear power facility operating in the State. Portable off-site monitoring devices must be made available to members of the public to establish a network of volunteer monitors who shall report to the department their findings. For this purpose, the department shall make Geiger Rate meters available to 50 volunteer monitors. In addition to the placement of Geiger Rate meters, the department shall procure 20 Gamma Scintillation Detection Devices and place 16 of them in homes of members of the public who volunteer to participate in the program. The 4 additional devices must be maintained by the department in reserve. The volunteers with Gamma Scintillation Detection Devices must also be provided with 2-way radios so they can report their findings in the case of emergency. All volunteers shall assist the department in its continuous monitoring network. All off-site monitoring devices must be geographically distributed throughout the surveillance area to provide the most effective monitoring network. The department shall adopt rules to provide for the selecting of the volunteers, the appropriate and accurate use of the meters and devices and the method and frequency of reporting to the department and other procedures necessary to implement the program; and [PL 1991, c. 496, §2 (AMD).]

N. Shall provide 24-hour-per-day coverage of existing radiation monitors through the use of a dialer-server computer system and the use of pagers. [PL 1991, c. 496, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 1991, c. 496, §§2, 3 (AMD).]

5. Coordination. The commissioner shall serve as the coordinator of radiation activities among the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Safety, Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Environmental Protection. The commissioner shall:

A. Consult with and review regulations and procedures of the agencies and federal law to assure consistency and to prevent unnecessary duplication, inconsistencies or gaps in regulatory requirements; and [PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §70 (RPR).]

B. Review, prior to adoption, the proposed rules of all agencies of the State relating to use of control of radiation, to assure that these rules are consistent with Title 5, chapter 375, and rules of other agencies of the State. The review must be completed within 15 days. [RR 2007, c. 2, §7 (COR).]

If the commissioner determines that proposed rules are inconsistent with rules of other agencies of the State or federal law, the commissioner shall consult with the agencies involved in an effort to resolve these inconsistencies. In the event no inconsistency is reported within 15 days, the proposed rules are presumed consistent for the purposes of this subsection. Upon notification by the commissioner that the inconsistency has not been resolved, the Governor may find that the proposed rules or parts of rules are inconsistent with rules of other agencies of the State or the Federal Government and may issue an order to that effect, in which event the proposed rules or parts of rules do not become effective. The

Governor may direct, in the alternative, upon a similar determination, the appropriate agency or agencies to amend or repeal existing rules to achieve consistency with the proposed rules.

[RR 2007, c. 2, §7 (COR).]

6. Information. The several agencies of the State shall keep the commissioner fully and currently informed as to their activities relating to regulation of sources of radiation.

[PL 1983, c. 345, §§13, 14 (NEW).]

7. Report. The commissioner shall report prior to January 31, 1984, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources on the need for regulation of nonionizing radiation.

[PL 1983, c. 345, §§13, 14 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 345, §§13,14 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 370, §3 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 493, §4 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 519, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 769, §§A67-A70 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 496, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 689, §§B6,7 (REV). PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. KK, §9 (AMD). RR 2007, c. 2, §7 (COR).

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