

in the following Region III non-Agreement States: Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. All inquiries, communications, and applications for a new license or an amendment or renewal of an existing license specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section must be sent to: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III, Material Licensing Section, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351.

(iv) *Region IV.* The regional licensing program involves all Federal facilities in the region and non-Federal licensees in the following Region IV non-Agreement States and a territory: Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Guam. All inquiries, communications, and applications for a new license or an amendment or renewal of an existing license specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section must be sent to: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV, Material Radiation Protection Section, 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, suite 400, Arlington, Texas 76011.

[48 FR 16032, Apr. 14, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 19631, May 9, 1984; 49 FR 47824, Dec. 7, 1984; 50 FR 14694, Apr. 15, 1985; 51 FR 36001, Oct. 8, 1986; 52 FR 38392, Oct. 16, 1987; 52 FR 48093, Dec. 18, 1987; 53 FR 3862, Feb. 10, 1988; 53 FR 4111, Feb. 12, 1988; 53 FR 43421, Oct. 27, 1988; 54 FR 6877, Feb. 15, 1989; 57 FR 18392, Apr. 30, 1992; 58 FR 7737, Feb. 9, 1993; 58 FR 64112, Dec. 6, 1993; 59 FR 17466, Apr. 13, 1994; 60 FR 24552, May 9, 1995; 62 FR 22880, Apr. 28, 1997]

#### § 70.6 Interpretations.

Except as specifically authorized by the Commission in writing, no interpretation of the meaning of the regulations in this part by any officer or employee of the Commission other than a written interpretation by the General Counsel will be recognized to be binding upon the Commission.

#### § 70.7 Employee protection.

(a) Discrimination by a Commission licensee, an applicant for a Commission license, or a contractor or sub-contractor of a Commission licensee or applicant against an employee for engaging in certain protected activities is prohibited. Discrimination includes discharge and other actions that relate to compensation, terms, conditions, or

privileges of employment. The protected activities are established in section 211 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, and in general are related to the administration or enforcement of a requirement imposed under the Atomic Energy Act or the Energy Reorganization Act.

(1) The protected activities include but are not limited to:

(i) Providing the Commission or his or her employer information about alleged violations of either of the statutes named in paragraph (a) introductory text of this section or possible violations of requirements imposed under either of those statutes;

(ii) Refusing to engage in any practice made unlawful under either of the statutes named in paragraph (a) introductory text or under these requirements if the employee has identified the alleged illegality to the employer;

(iii) Requesting the Commission to institute action against his or her employer for the administration or enforcement of these requirements;

(iv) Testifying in any Commission proceeding, or before Congress, or at any Federal or State proceeding regarding any provision (or proposed provision) of either of the statutes named in paragraph (a) introductory text.

(v) Assisting or participating in, or is about to assist or participate in, these activities.

(2) These activities are protected even if no formal proceeding is actually initiated as a result of the employee assistance or participation.

(3) This section has no application to any employee alleging discrimination prohibited by this section who, acting without direction from his or her employer (or the employer's agent), deliberately causes a violation of any requirement of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, or the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

(b) Any employee who believes that he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against by any person for engaging in protected activities specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section may seek a remedy for the discharge or discrimination through an administrative proceeding in the Department of Labor. The administrative