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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Environmental Reviews Related to Molybdenum-99 Production

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) environmental review of proposed activities relating to the establishment of a domestic molybdenum-99 supply in the United States. The NRC is currently conducting two environmental reviews for construction permits for proposed molybdenum-99 production facilities. In May 2015, the NRC staff published a draft Environmental Impact Statement for SHINE Medical Technologies, Inc.'s construction permit application. The NRC staff is addressing several unique considerations during these first-of-a-kind reviews, such as evaluating the applicability of the NRC's licensing and environmental regulatory frameworks, determining the appropriate level of detail for NRC's environmental documents, and implementing various methods to ensure efficient and effective reviews for first-time applicants. Future environmental reviews will incorporate lessons learned from the ongoing environmental reviews, including technical considerations, public participation, and coordination with other government agencies and Tribes, as well as other unique site- and project-specific considerations.