

The Department of Energy's Transportation Regulatory Analysis Center

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors ship a significant amount of material each year, including hazardous materials and hazardous wastes. As a major shipper, DOE must ensure that its transportation operations are safe, efficient and in compliance with applicable regulations. Most hazardous material and hazardous waste shipments are fully regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Transportation. Consequently, DOE is potentially affected by changes in any of the regulations of these agencies that govern its transportation activities.

In order to remain in compliance with these regulations, the DOE community-at-large must stay abreast of revisions to the regulations. As a potentially affected party, DOE also has an interest in providing comments and information to the regulatory agencies on the possible impacts of proposed changes. In order to do this, DOE must communicate and coordinate input from numerous program offices, field offices and site offices.

The DOE's National Transportation Program has established a Regulatory Analysis Center that tracks, classifies, and disseminates all regulatory actions related to its transportation activities. The Center provides analysis of rulemaking actions that assist DOE entities in understanding and commenting on proposed rules and in implementing final rule changes. Using Web-based technologies the Center provides timely regulatory information and compiles input from DOE entities. It also serves as resource for information on related activities such as developments in the international arena that may lead to changes in the international and U.S. requirements.

The poster presentation described the development of the Center and the technologies and approaches it is applying to facilitate effective DOE participation in the rulemaking process.