

Radiation Safety Committee	Authority and Responsibility
Standard Operating Procedure	

Background	The Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) is established to comply with the requirements of the Department of Agriculture's broad scope radioactive materials and irradiator licenses issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).
Functions and Authorities	<p>The NRC licenses establish the following functions and authorities for the RSC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Establish general policies regarding radiation safety for the Department of Agriculture; ! Provide general direction and advice to the Radiation Safety Staff on matters regarding radiation safety policy; ! Perform the annual radiation safety program audit as required in 10 CFR 20.1101; ! Review summaries of all initial requests to use radioactive materials within the Department; ! Review for approval all protocols involving radioisotope use in humans, large-animals (animals greater than 5 kg), and field studies; and review protocols for the synthesis of compounds when radioactive sources exceed limits set forth by the NRC. ! Review reports from the Radiation Safety Staff including inspection schedules and results, progress on permit actions, enforcement actions, and incident investigations; and ! Enforce compliance with radiation safety program requirements.
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Additional Responsibilities	<p>The RSC has the following responsibilities regarding the USDA Radiation Safety Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Review the Radiation Safety Staff budget and staffing, and make recommendations to the Director, OHRM, Safety, Health & Employee Welfare Division; ! Assist the Radiation Safety Staff in assuring compliance with applicable State, Federal, and local regulations and USDA Radiation Safety Program policies and procedures; ! Participate in the performance evaluation of the Director and Team Leaders of the Radiation Safety Staff; and ! Brief senior agency management personnel on issues involving use of radioactive materials or radiation emitting equipment.
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Approved:

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