

## Nuclear Industry Fact Sheet

The nuclear industry is the most highly regulated industry in the United States, even more so than the airline industry. Companies in this industry must meet stringent operational and safety standards on a regular basis.

The use of radioactive materials in industry is fairly common. Countless numbers of companies in Catawba County, across the state and around the world use radioactive components in their devices, machines and manufacturing processes.

The transportation and shipment of materials is in itself a strict and highly regulated process, with protective containers, labels and other measures specifically designed to prevent harm. The disposal process is similarly strict.

The amount and severity of radiation contained in radioactive materials varies by type. The level of radiation contained in Lutetium 177 is on the very low end of the spectrum and has a short shelf life.

Exposure to low grade radiation happens every day due to its presence in things like sunlight, air travel, heating, the ground around us, etc.

New industrial manufacturers participate in an emergency pre-planning process with Emergency Management, fire and EMS to ensure the development of proactive and collaborative emergency response plans specific to their industry, facility and location.

Catawba County Emergency Management has extensive experience and training relative to radioactive material due to the proximity of Duke Energy's McGuire Nuclear Station in Huntersville.

For more information about nuclear industry regulations and guidelines, visit the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at <https://www.nrc.gov/>. Information about North Carolina's NRC region can be found at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/region-state/north-carolina.html>.