

staff that the safety goals were to be used to define "how safe is safe enough." (In that SRM, the Commission characterized "how safe is safe enough" as "how far [the staff] should go when proposing safety enhancements, including those to be considered under the Backfit Rule.") The policy statement itself does not include this guidance. Should it be added?

6. Recognizing recent progress in risk-informed regulatory activities, should discussion of the relationship between the safety goals and these activities be considered for inclusion in the policy statement?

7. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) discussed the potential use of safety goals to define the adequate protection concept. Should such a definition be pursued?

8. The policy statement mentions defense-in-depth but does not define it. Should the policy be expanded to provide more guidance on the extent and nature of defense-in-depth?

Changes To Make the Statement Consistent With Current Practices

9. Two issues were identified in the staff's recent risk-informed regulatory guidance development activities, and discussed as policy issues in SECY-96-218, dated October 11, 1996, and SECY-97-287, dated December 12, 1997:

- Plant-specific application of safety goals, including a containment performance guideline derived from the QHOs (and defined in terms of a large early release frequency (LERF)).

- Treatment of uncertainties in plant-specific, risk-informed decisionmaking. It may be appropriate to discuss the resolution of these issues in the Safety Goal Policy Statement.

10. The current policy statement contains a proposed general plant performance guideline of 10^{-6} per reactor year for a large release of radioactive material. In SECY-93-138 the staff documented its conclusion that such a guideline would be significantly more restrictive than the QHOs. The staff further recommended that work to develop such a guideline be terminated. The Commission approved this recommendation in a June 10, 1993, SRM. Therefore, removal of this general plant performance guideline from the policy statement should be considered.

Workshop Meeting Information

The Commission intends to conduct a workshop to solicit information related to the revising the reactor safety goal. Persons other than NRC staff and NRC contractors interested in making a presentation at the workshop should notify Joseph Murphy, Office of Nuclear

Regulatory Research, MS-T10 F12, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001, (301-415-5670), email: jam1@nrc.gov

Date: November 9, 1999.

Agenda: Preliminary agenda is as follows (a final agenda will be available at the workshop):

9:00 a.m. Introduction
 9:30-10:15 Overview of issues
 10:15-10:30 Break
 10:30-12:00 Discussion of specific questions
 12:00-1:00 Lunch break
 1:00-2:30 Discussion of specific questions (continued)
 2:30-2:45 Break
 2:45-4:00 Discussion of specific questions (continued)
 4:00-5:00 Wrap-up discussion

Location: Doubletree Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville Maryland 20852, (301-468-1100).

Registration: No registration fee for workshop; however, notification of attendance is requested so that adequate space, etc., for the workshop can be arranged. Notification of attendance should be directed to Joseph Murphy, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS: T10-F12, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001, (301) 415-5670, email: jam1@nrc.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Murphy, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS: T10 F12, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001, (301) 415-5670, email: jam1@nrc.gov

Dated this 14th day of October 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas L. King,

Director, Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 99-27363 Filed 10-19-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NRC To Hold Public Meetings on Spent Fuel Shipping Cask Accident Studies

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting on spent nuclear fuel transportation studies.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is initiating a study on spent nuclear fuel cask responses to severe transportation accidents. NRC previously studied this issue in the 1980s (see NUREG/CR-4829 and NUREG/BR-0111, called the "modal

study"). The modal study looked at possible rail and highway accidents and concluded that spent nuclear fuel cask designs would survive nearly all transportation accidents without releasing radioactive material to the environment. Over the next few years NRC will revisit the conclusions of the 1987 modal study to assure their continued validity. Risk insights obtained using modern analysis techniques, physical testing, and through interaction with stakeholders and the public, will support NRC's ongoing efforts to assure that its regulatory actions are risk-informed and effective. Ongoing public interactions throughout this project will help ensure that public concerns are effectively identified and understood, and that the project is designed considering these issues.

As the first step, NRC will conduct public meetings with the general public with the goal of having open, constructive discussions by stakeholders so that the NRC can listen to and better understand any public concerns regarding spent nuclear fuel transport package safety. Francis X. Cameron, Special Counsel for Public Liaison, in the Commission's Office of the General Counsel, will be the convenor and facilitator for the meetings.

DATES: Two public meetings will be held. The first will be held in Bethesda, MD, on November 17, 1999, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The second will be held in Henderson, NV, on December 8, 1999, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with an evening session from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The location of the first meeting is the Bethesda Hyatt Hotel, One Bethesda Metro (7400 Wisconsin Avenue), Bethesda, MD. The second meeting will be held at the Henderson Convention Center, 200 Water Street, Henderson, NV.

INFORMATION: Contact Francis X. Cameron, Special Counsel for Public Liaison, Office of the General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC, 20555-0001, Telephone: 301-415-1642.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The risk of transporting highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power plants to a centralized storage facility or to an underground repository is an issue that has recently received increased NRC and public attention because of the increase in the number of shipments that will occur if and when such facilities begin operating. Risk to the public from transportation accidents depends on accident rates, number of

shipments, and the likely consequences and severity of the accidents. About 1300 shipments of spent nuclear fuel have been made in NRC-certified packages, with an exceptional safety record of no releases from accidents. Despite the previous studies and safety record, some stakeholders may have questions or concerns regarding spent nuclear fuel transport package safety. Several groups have criticized NRC's cask standards and the modal study as being insufficient to adequately demonstrate safety during severe transportation accidents.

The objective of the public meetings is to bring together representatives of the interests affected by the study to discuss their views on the issues in a "roundtable" format. In order to have a manageable discussion, the number of participants around the table will, of necessity, be limited. The Commission, through the facilitator for the meeting, will attempt to ensure participation by the broad spectrum of interests at the meetings, including citizen and environmental groups, nuclear industry interests, state, tribal, and local governments, experts from academia, or other agencies. Other members of the public are welcome to attend, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on each of the agenda items slated for discussion by the roundtable participants. Questions about participation may be directed to the facilitator, Francis X. Cameron.

The meetings will have a pre-defined scope and agenda focused on the major technical issues in regard to spent nuclear fuel cask performance during transportation accidents. However, the meeting format will be sufficiently flexible to allow for the introduction of additional related issues that the participants may wish to raise. The purpose of the meetings is to hear the views of the participants on the issues and options to resolve the issues for the forthcoming study. The agenda for the meetings is set forth below.

Agenda

Introductions and Welcome

E. William Brach, Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, NRC
 Susan F. Shankman, Deputy Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, NRC
 Ground Rules, Agenda Overview, Introduction of Participants
 Francis X. Cameron, Facilitator
 Overview of NRC Studies on Transportation Risk
 NRC Staff
 NRC Plans for the Modal Study Update
 Robert Lewis, NRC
 General Overview of the Study Updates
 Sandia National Laboratories

Discussion of Issues

Participants and Audience Summary and Closing Remarks

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of October, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Susan F. Shankman,

Deputy Director, Licensing and Inspection Directorate, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 99-27362 Filed 10-19-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of October 18, 25, November 1, and 8, 1999.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of October 18

Wednesday, October 20

9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public meeting) (if needed)

9:30 a.m. Meeting with Organization of Agreement States (OAS) and Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) (Public meeting) (Contact: Paul Lohaus, 301-415-3340)

Thursday, October 21

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Part 35—Rule on Medical Use of Byproduct Material (Public Meeting) (Contact: Cathy Haney, 301-415-6825) (SECY-99-201, *Draft Final Rule—10 CFR Part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material*, is available in the NRC Public Document Room or on NRC web site at: "www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html" Download the *zipped version* to obtain all attachments.)

Week of October 25—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of October 25.

Week of November 1—Tentative

Thursday, November 4

9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

9:30 a.m. Meeting with Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) (Public Meeting) (Contact: John Larkins, 301-415-7360)

Week of November 8—Tentative

Tuesday, November 9

9:00 a.m. Meeting on NRC Interactions with Stakeholders on Nuclear Materials and Waste Activities (Public Meeting)

Wednesday, November 10

9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Draft Maintenance Regulatory Guide (Public Meeting) (Contact: Richard Correia, 301-415-1009)

*The schedule for commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: October 15, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-27459 Filed 10-18-99; 10:46 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

I. Background

Pursuant to Public Law 97-415, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. Public Law 97-415 revised section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to require the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, under a new provision of section