

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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COMMISSION ENDORSES NRC REGULATION
OF SOME ENERGY DEPARTMENT NUCLEAR FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has endorsed NRC's taking responsibility for regulatory oversight of Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear facilities — as DOE recently proposed — contingent on adequate funding, staffing resources, and a clear delineation of the authority NRC would exercise.

The Commission will discuss this matter with DOE officials at a public meeting at 2:30 p. m. today at NRC's One White Flint North headquarters building, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.

Heretofore, the Commission has taken no position on the question of regulation of DOE nuclear facilities. It has now decided to endorse the concept, based on the Energy Department's decision to seek such regulatory oversight and on strong public support shown during the comment period on the DOE proposal.

The Commission has directed the NRC staff to form a high level task force made up of representatives from major agency offices to begin work in conjunction with DOE representatives on identifying key regulatory issues that will need analysis and resolution. Among issues to be focused on are implementing legislation, specific DOE facilities involved, and required financial and personnel resources.

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