NRC to Hold Public Meetings on Preliminary Regulatory Development for Fusion Systems

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold three virtual public meetings in October and November to seek public input on preliminary proposed rule language, draft guidance, and certain specific topics for the regulation of fusion energy systems.

The meetings will be held online Oct. 11 from 1-3 p.m., Nov. 1 from 1-4 p.m., and Nov. 9 from 1-4 p.m., all Eastern time. Specific details about the meetings, including how to join by webinar or phone, can be found in the NRC’s public meeting notices. The preliminary proposed rule language is available online.

The Commission directed the staff earlier this year to develop regulations for licensing fusion energy systems by amending the existing byproduct material requirements in 10 Code of Federal Regulation Part 30. The regulations will take into account the fusion energy systems that have already been licensed and are being regulated by the states as well as developments in fusion technology. The staff also was directed to develop licensing guidance in a new, dedicated volume of the NUREG-1556 series.

The staff’s goal is to have a proposed rule ready for Commission consideration in early 2025. The meetings are a continuation of public outreach that will extend throughout the rulemaking process.

Documents related to this rulemaking can be found on www.regulations.gov under Docket ID NRC-2023-0071.