

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC ANNOUNCES POLICY ON TIMING RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS TO THE PUBLIC

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has established a general policy for the timely release of documents to the public under the new “Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS).”

Under the policy, documents received by the agency will be released to the public three working days after they are electronically entered into the ADAMS public library. Documents are entered into ADAMS within about eight hours of receipt during the normal work day. Documents that are produced by the agency and sent to either external or internal addressees will be released three working days after the date of the document.

These changes will allow recipients of the documents reasonable time to review their correspondence before it is available to the general public. The brief delay also will help prevent release of any proprietary or privacy-related information sent to the agency.

Certain documents will be excluded from this policy, as is current practice, and will carry their own release conditions. For example, certain Commission papers will be made available to the public ten business days after issuance. Commission staff requirements memoranda, voting records, and Commission action memoranda will be made available immediately after final Commission action. The entire list of types of documents that are exceptions to the three-day release policy is attached.

With the arrival of ADAMS, documents are available to the public within days instead of weeks, as was the case with the previous document management system.

On November 1, the agency began placing all newly received and created public records in electronic form at the ADAMS public library on the website, accessible by computers in homes, schools, offices, libraries, and the agency’s Public Document Room, using a standard web browser. To date, there are approximately 12,000 documents that have been newly entered into the ADAMS public library which can be accessed at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> . Many documents are also available on NRC’s main website.

Those who cannot access computers or who prefer not to use them, may contact NRC's Public Document Room (202-634-3273). The Public Document Room will search for and retrieve documents, and upon request, will have them copied for a fee.

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Documents With Specific Release Conditions

DOCUMENT TYPE	WHEN TO RELEASE
1. Notification of significant enforcement actions	Three business days after the enforcement action is issued
2. Documents related to byproduct material licenses (10 CFR Parts 30 through 39)	Three business days after the final licensing action is completed (e.g., license issued)
3. Route approval letters to licensee	Ten business days after the last of a series of shipments in a shipping campaign
4. Nonsensitive information papers	Ten business days after issuance of the paper
5. Nonsensitive SECY papers not listed elsewhere	Immediately after final Commission action
6. Commission staff requirements memoranda, voting records, and Commission action memoranda (COM)	Immediately after final Commission action
7. Congressional and executive correspondence	Five business days after it is sent to recipient
8. Generic requirements proposed to CRGR (attachments to CRGR meeting notice transmittal memoranda)	After the NRC has considered the proposed requirements in a public forum or has decided on the matter addressed in the proposed requirements
9. CRGR meeting minutes	After the NRC has decided on the matter addressed in the minutes
10. Contract solicitation documents (requests for proposals)	Maintained in the PDR until solicitation closing date
11. Office of Public Affairs press releases and speeches	Immediately
12. Emergency preparedness exercise objectives and scenarios, including NRC and FEMA comments and reviews	After conduct of exercise
13. Regulatory guides and draft regulatory guides	One business day after Congressional committees receive printed copies
14. Facility-submitted operator licensing written examinations	After the conduct of the examination