

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, DC 20555  
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234  
Internet:opa@nrc.gov

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***NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON REACTOR SAFETY CHAPTER  
OF ITS STRATEGIC PLAN ON AUGUST 20***

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting in Rockville, Maryland, on August 20 to give the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the nuclear reactor safety chapter of the agency's Strategic Plan. The meeting had originally been scheduled for August 10.

The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room in the agency's One White Flint North Building at 11555 Rockville Pike.

The Strategic Plan contains goals to carry out NRC's mission, and strategies to meet those goals. It serves as a comprehensive blueprint for the agency's program and budget planning and a guide to daily management and decision-making. The NRC's first Strategic Plan was issued in September 1997.

Since then, the NRC has adopted processes that focus on becoming more performance-based and outcome-oriented. The nuclear reactor safety chapter reflects this approach to long-range planning as well as institutionalizing regulatory reforms initiated during the last 18 months. It contains new performance goals and measures and addresses issues raised during the NRC's July 30, 1998, Congressional hearing; the July 17, 1998, Commission meeting with members of the public and stakeholders who would be most affected by NRC decisions; and the Chairman's August 17, 1998 tasking memo. While the NRC recognizes that more work is needed, at this point it believes the draft nuclear reactor safety chapter will benefit from stakeholder suggestions.

The NRC is looking for comments pertaining to the following four issues:

- Do goals address appropriate areas?
- Are the strategies to achieve the goals adequate?
- Will performance measures indicate whether we are achieving our goals?
- Do goals and strategies reflect NRC's commitment to institutionalize change and become more performance-based?

Additional details will be available in an upcoming edition of the Federal Register. Those interested in participating in the meeting should contact James Blaha at (301) 415-1703.

The draft strategic plan and a forum for submitting comments electronically are available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/INITIATIVES/199/index.html>  
All written comments should be submitted by August 27 to Debra J. Corley at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop: O-16E15, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

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