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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NRC STAFF SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON POSSIBILITY  
OF REDUCING REGULATORY BURDEN

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is asking for public comments in connection with a special review of existing regulations to determine whether regulatory burdens can be reduced without in any way reducing protection of the public health and safety and the common defense and security.

The special review, directed by the Commission, is being conducted by the NRC staff's Committee to Review Generic Requirements. It is part of a longer-term effort to look at requirements with marginal safety significance which has been underway since 1984.

The special review will concentrate on regulations promulgated before 1981 when the Committee to Review Generic Requirements was formed and the committee and the Commission began to more carefully scrutinize proposed, new generic requirements.

The information generated as a result of the special review including the public comments received will be used by the Commission in formulating a reply to a January 28 memorandum from the President asking agencies to review their regulatory requirements to see if the regulatory burden imposed by individual agencies could be reduced.

Persons interested in commenting are invited to consider issues raised in a February 4, 1992, Federal Register notice concerning the program initiated in 1984. They also are invited to consider four specific questions:

-- Is it feasible for the NRC to consider early reduction or elimination of any existing requirements?

-- Are there likely candidates for early reduction or elimination identified in the earlier NRC staff study referred to the February 4, 1992 notice? If so, what should be the priority (sequence and schedule) for their treatment?

-- Are there likely candidates for early reduction or elimination not identified in the earlier NRC staff study referred to in the February 4, 1992, notice?

-- Have adequate evaluations of safety importance and regulatory burden been completed for any identified potential candidates, including those identified by the NRC staff in the February 4, 1992, notice or any new or different candidates identified by commentators?

Written comments should be received by March 6 and should be addressed to the Chief, Regulatory Publications Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Comments received later than March 6 will be considered in the longer-term program if appropriate and if forwarded by May 4, 1992.

As part of the special review, a public meeting is to be held in the Washington, D.C., area tentatively on March 27. The time and place and other details of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

The findings of the special review, when it is completed, will be made public.

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