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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Friday, March 20, 1992)

NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING ON SPECIAL REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a public meeting March 27 in Bethesda, MD, to discuss suggested changes to the NRC's existing regulations. The suggestions were made in connection with a special review of NRC 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 meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, 1 Bethesda Metro Center.

The special review is being conducted--at the direction of the Commission--by NRC's Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) and is to be completed by April 10, 1992. It is related to a longer-term effort to look at requirements with marginal safety significance that has been underway since 1984. Information generated as a result of the special review will be used by the Commission in replying to two January 28 memoranda from the President asking agencies to review their regulatory requirements to see if the regulatory burden imposed by individual agencies could be reduced.

In a Federal Register notice published on February 24, 1992, the NRC staff asked for public comments in connection with the review. The notice specifically invited comments on issues such as whether there are any regulatory requirements that are likely candidates for early reduction or elimination, and if so, what should be the priority for their treatment. A Federal Register notice to be published on March 23, 1992, discusses the likely or possible candidates for action, based on CRGR's preliminary evaluation of comments. Other candidates for recommended action may be identified before the meeting, as the special review continues. Candidates classified by CRGR as likely or possible will be given the highest priority in dividing discussion time at the meeting.

The morning session of the March 27 meeting will be devoted to suggested or possible changes to the NRC's regulatory requirements that affect operating power reactors. The afternoon session (beginning at 2:30 p.m.) will cover suggested or possible changes in other areas of NRC regulations, such as regulatory requirements for waste and materials licensees.

Interested persons may address remarks or comments to the CRGR at the meeting, relevant to the identification and evaluation of regulatory requirements that are candidates for

reduction or elimination in the special review context. To facilitate scheduling of time for speakers and orderly conduct of the meeting, persons who wish to speak at the meeting should notify one of the following NRC staff before the meeting: James Conran, phone: 301/492-9855, fax: 301/492-7142; or Dennis Allison, phone: 301/492-4148, fax: 301/492-7142. Registration will be available at the meeting for a limited number of additional speakers on a first-come basis.

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