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NRC APPROVES MAINE AGREEMENT TO REGULATE
USE OF CERTAIN RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved an agreement with the State of Maine under which that State will assume part of the NRC's regulatory authority over the use of certain radioactive materials. The agreement will become effective on April 1.

Under the agreement, the responsibility for licensing, rulemaking, inspection and enforcement concerning the use of byproduct materials, source materials uranium and thorium, and small quantities of special nuclear materials will be transferred to Maine. There are approximately 105 NRC licenses currently in effect in Maine that will be transferred to the State. The agreement, however, does not provide for State authority over uranium or thorium milling activities or land disposal of source, byproduct and special nuclear material waste received from other persons.

The Maine Department of Human Services will be the State agency responsible for administering the regulatory program.

The Commission has found that the radiation control program proposed by Maine is compatible with the NRC program and is adequate to protect the public health and safety. The agreement, as approved by the Commission, is the same as the one published for public comment in the Federal Register for four consecutive weeks beginning on December 24, 1991.

Maine becomes the 29th state to sign such an agreement with the NRC. Other States which have already assumed this authority from the NRC are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.