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Tel. 301-504-2240

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NRC AMENDS POLICY STATEMENT ON COOPERATION WITH STATES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its Policy Statement on Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Nuclear Production or Utilization Facilities.

The amendment will permit representatives from adjacent states, as well as the host state, to observe NRC staff inspections at NRC-licensed facilities.

Adjacent states are defined as those within the plume exposure pathway (within approximately a 10-mile radius) Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). Seventeen nuclear power plants and 25 states potentially could be affected.

The original policy statement, issued in February 1989, provides a uniform basis for NRC/state cooperation as it relates to the regulatory oversight of commercial nuclear power plants and other nuclear production or utilization facilities. Among other things, it allows officials from host states to accompany the NRC staff on inspections and, under certain circumstances, allows host states to enter into agreements with the NRC to participate in its inspection activities.

As amended, officials from adjacent states will be able to observe, but not participate in, NRC staff inspections and inspection entrance and exit meetings with the approval of the appropriate NRC Regional Administrator. The Regional Administrator will have the authority to limit the number of observers and, if necessary, will give preference to host state observers.

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