

No. 92-89  
Tel. 301-504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Monday, June 8, 1992)

NRC PLANS WORKSHOP ON RULEMAKING PROCEDURES  
FOR CERTIFYING ADVANCED REACTOR DESIGNS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a workshop Monday, July 20, to discuss the major procedural issues which should be considered in developing procedures for the first design certification rulemakings under Part 52 of the Commission's regulations.

The Office of the General Counsel has provided the Commission with its preliminary analyses and recommendations on the procedures which should be used, taking into account a submission by the Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) setting forth the industry's views and comments on those views received from the Ohio Citizens for Responsible Energy (OCRE). The Commission now would like to have broader public comment on the procedural issues before establishing the procedures in a notice of proposed rulemaking.

The Commission has received and the staff now is reviewing applications for standard design certifications for General Electric Company's Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) and ABB Combustion Engineering's System 80+. The Commission also expects, later this year, an application for Westinghouse Electric Corporation's AP-600 design.

Part 52 sets forth general procedures and requirements for certification of standard designs through rulemaking, including provision for written public comments and an opportunity to request a public hearing before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Although public hearings in NRC rulemakings are not unprecedented, the agency has had little experience with them.

The July 20 workshop will begin at 9 a.m. EDT at the Capitol Hyatt Hotel, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C. and will adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Interested persons are asked to provide advance notice of their plans to attend by July 1. These notifications, as well as requests for copies of the staff's recommendations, NUMARC's views and the OCRE's comments on those views, should be addressed to Geary S. Mizuno, Office of the General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

20555. More detailed information, including a final agenda and a list of panel discussion participants, will be mailed in advance

2

of the workshop to those who plan to attend and others who request the information.

Following the workshop, a 30-day period will be provided for interested persons to provide written comments on design certification rulemaking procedures. Written comments should be received by August 19 and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

The tentative agenda for the workshop calls for an address by NRC Chairman Ivan Selin and a series of panel discussions on such subjects as: public comment/hearing request period; threshold for informal hearing request; scope of Licensing Board authority in informal hearing; conduct of informal hearing; requests for additional hearing procedures and formal hearings; use of, and access to, proprietary portions of the design certification application; separation of functions and ex parte limitations.

#