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NRC WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS ISSUES FOR PROPOSED
POLICY ON COMPATIBILITY OF AGREEMENT STATES PROGRAMS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public workshop on July 26-27 in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the development of a proposed policy on the compatibility of Agreement States' radiation control programs with those of the NRC.

Representatives of Agreement States, non-Agreement States, the nuclear industry, public groups and the general public are invited to the workshop, which will be held at the Ramada Inn Rockville at Congressional Park, 1775 Rockville Pike. Discussions will begin at 1:00 p.m. on July 26 and at 8:30 a.m. the next day.

At present, 29 states have assumed, by agreement, part of the NRC's regulatory authority over the possession and use of certain radioactive materials.

Under the Agreement States program, the NRC relinquishes its regulatory authority by agreement with a Governor after finding that a State's radiation control program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the NRC's regulatory program. In conducting periodic reviews of Agreement States' programs for adequacy and compatibility, the NRC examines licensing, enforcement and other regulatory actions taken by a State.

Agreement States have expressed concern over NRC's interpretation of compatibility requirements and support, to some degree, a uniform national approach to radiation safety matters with some flexibility.

The Commission has been reviewing its practices concerning the Agreement States programs and has directed the NRC staff to develop a policy on compatibility, with the focus on all program areas except low-level radioactive waste disposal. In April, a working group was established to develop a policy and provide guidance on criteria for determining compatibility and implementation.

To generate discussion and receive comments and recommendations at the July workshop, the working group has produced a paper, "Issues for the Proposed Policy on Compatibility of Agreement States." A copy of the issues paper can be obtained from Cardelia Maupin, NRC Office of States Programs, Washington, DC 20555, 301/504-2312.

A transcript of the workshop will be available for inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW (Lower Level), Washington, D.C., on or about September 27.

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