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Tel. 301-504-2240

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## NRC TO PERMIT ON-SITE INCINERATION OF CONTAMINATED WASTE OILS AT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SITES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to permit the on-site incineration of waste oils used in nuclear plants and contaminated with very small amounts of radioactive materials.

Previously, utility operators of nuclear power plants have disposed of contaminated waste oils at low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities. In a few cases, licenses were specifically amended by the NRC staff to permit on-site incineration.

This action is being taken in partial response to a July 1984 petition for rulemaking submitted by the Edison Electric Institute and the Utility Nuclear Waste Management Group.

As amended, the regulations will permit the on-site incineration of waste oils--petroleum derived or synthetic oils used principally as lubricants, coolants, hydraulic or insulating fluids or metalworking oils--that have been contaminated with small amounts of radioactive materials in the course of the operation or maintenance of a nuclear power plant.

Releases of radioactive effluents, including those from waste-oil incineration, are limited to "as-low-as-reasonably achievable" levels already specified in Appendix I to Part 50 of the Commissions regulations. In addition, a generic assessment prepared for the staff shows that the environmental impacts of waste oil incineration will be minimal.

The amendment to Part 20 of the NRC's regulations will become effective on January 7, 1993.

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