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INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO NRC INFORMATION

To increase the availability of information to the public, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has made a number of agency documents and notices available online either through direct computer access on a toll-free telephone line or through the Internet.

The NRC online service is part of FedWorld, an online system which hosts over 150 computer bulletin boards for a number of federal agencies. The NRC portion of FedWorld, however, is unique because it is accessible through a toll-free telephone number, **1-800-303-9672**. To reach Fedworld on the Internet, the Telnet address is `fedworld.gov`; the FTP address is `ftp.fedworld.gov`; and the World Wide Web address is `http://www.fedworld.gov`.

There is no charge for any of the NRC online services, although users are restricted to 180 minutes a day that they may be connected to the system. Currently, NRC information available on electronic bulletin boards at FedWorld or gateways to FedWorld includes:

- NRC news releases.
- Schedule of NRC staff meetings with licensees and others.
- Generic Communications from the NRC to licensees, including Information Notices, Bulletins, Generic Letters, and Administrative Letters.
- Petitions to the NRC from members of the public raising potential health and safety issues involving nuclear facilities.
- Information on NRC's Enforcement Program to help assure licensee compliance with NRC regulations and license conditions (provides opportunity for comment).
- Information on proposed NRC rulemakings, including public

comments.

- Compilation of health physics issues, including regulatory requirements and guidance for radiation protection.
- A selection of documents that are also available for examination in the NRC public document room including: plant status reports and daily event reports for commercial nuclear power plants in the U.S.; preliminary notifications which describe events of interest at NRC-

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regulated facilities; SECY papers (NRC staff reports to the Commission); announcements and transcripts of Commission and Advisory Committee meetings.

- Technical specifications and amendments for operating reactors.

Access to NRC information at FedWorld continues to be expanded; additional documents will likely become available and some system changes may occur.

To access the FedWorld NRC system you need a computer (preferably with a hard drive), a modem, and a software communication package. The communication software parameters should be set to '8' data bits, 'none' parity, '1' stop bit, and 'full' duplex. These are standard settings. If you have questions on these parameters or on the file transfer protocols, you should refer to your software manual.

Many of NRC's files on FedWorld are viewable online while others are in a compressed format or WordPerfect (DOS) format. All files on the NRC FedWorld system can be downloaded. This allows a document or file to be copied from the FedWorld computer into the user's personal computer. Some of the documents are in a compressed format which requires the use of special software to expand the documents so that they may be read. This software is available on the FedWorld NRC system. [NOTE: The software for expanding a compressed document file may be used only on DOS-based systems, and some of the documents are in WordPerfect (DOS) format.]

FedWorld maintains a "Helpdesk" to assist users in accessing, finding, and downloading information on FedWorld including the NRC online area. The Helpdesk can be reached at **703-487-4608** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST).

Internet E-mail for the NRC Office of Public Affairs may be addressed to: opa@nrc.gov. This address can also be used to request daily press releases and general inquiries.

For more details on obtaining NRC information, refer to the enclosed Citizen's Guide.

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