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NRC REVISES ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND
REMOVES IT FROM CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has revised, and is providing an opportunity for public comment on, its General Statement of Policy and Procedure for Enforcement Actions.

The revisions result from a reassessment of the enforcement program, completed in April. The review team found that the enforcement program, at times, sent mixed regulatory messages to licensees, calling for revisions in existing enforcement policy.

The most significant revisions include:

-- new emphasis on the importance of licensee self-identification of violations, and on current licensee performance;

-- the direction of more NRC attention to licensees with a record of multiple significant violations over a relatively short time period;

-- the use of enforcement actions only for violations of more than minor significance;

-- continuation of a trial program of predecisional enforcement conferences open for public observation; and

-- the use of discretion to assure that agency sanctions provide the appropriate regulatory message.

The Commission originally added the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for Enforcement Actions" as Appendix C to Part 2 of its regulations in October 1980 to assure that it received widespread dissemination. However, because it is a policy statement and not a regulation, the Commission is removing it from the Code of Federal Regulations.

However, to ensure that the enforcement policy will continue to receive widespread dissemination, in addition to being published in the Federal Register on June 30, it is being made available in a document identified as NUREG-1600 and copies can be purchased from the Government Printing Office, P. O. Box 37082, Washington, D. C. 20402-9328.

Written comments on the revised enforcement policy should be received by August 14 and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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