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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF ASKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSAL TO REDUCE AMOUNT
OF OPERATIONAL DATA REPORTED BY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LICENSEES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is seeking public comment on a proposed reduction in the amount of monthly operating data nuclear power plant licensees now report to NRC.

This proposed change would mean that nuclear utilities would no longer need to report such information as the amount of power generated or the reactor service, availability and capacity factors, data which the NRC staff considers to have no direct bearing on nuclear safety. But they would continue to be asked to report information monthly on unit shutdowns, as well as data showing the number of hours a plant reactor was critical and its main generator was on line. NRC uses this information in its program for monitoring plant safety performance trends.

Licensees who wished to continue submitting all of this data, however, could do so under terms of a generic letter which the NRC staff proposes to send to all holders of nuclear power plant operating licenses.

Before issuing the letter, the NRC staff is asking for comment from interested parties regarding the need to (1) retain the information that would be deleted from the monthly operating report required from each plant; or (2) restrict further the information to be reported or define it more explicitly.

Written comments may be sent to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. They also may be delivered to NRC's headquarters building at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a. m. to 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, (Lower Level), Washington, DC. The comment period expires on September 18. If, after all comments are evaluated and the generic letter is issued, the letter also will be placed in the public document room.

All nuclear power plant licenses require that NRC be sent a monthly operating report detailing operating statistics and shutdown experience. The data now being submitted for that report was first outlined in guidance published more than 20 years ago by the NRC's predecessor agency, the former Atomic Energy Commission. NRC has been publishing much of this information in the Licensed Operating Reactors Status Summary Report (NUREG-0020) — also known as the "Gray Book" — which is now available monthly on computer diskette, with a printed version issued once a year. Because of budget cuts, NRC plans to discontinue publication of the Status Summary Report in early 1996 after the issuance of the printed version with data through the end of this calendar year.

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