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Tel. 301-415-8200

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NRC STAFF TO CONDUCT CRITICAL RE-EVALUATION
OF AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES

At the direction of Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will begin shortly a thorough re-evaluation of the NRC's operations, organization, and practices.

This initiative, known as a strategic assessment and rebaselining, is intended to assure a sound, well-reasoned foundation for the agency's direction and decision-making for the rest of this decade and into the next.

The assessment will be carried out by a steering committee made up of senior agency managers and members of the Chairman's staff. This steering committee will work with an outside consultant to be selected by Chairman Jackson, who plans to be personally involved in the effort. The Chairman has asked that the committee submit a report to the Commission by the end of the year.

"This initiative is intended to take a new look at the NRC by conducting a reassessment of agency activities and to apply to these redefined activities a rigorous screening process to produce a new set of assumptions, goals, and strategies," Chairman Jackson said. "In doing so, we will use a zero-based, bottom-up approach that will result in a critical re-evaluation of our regulatory and support requirements, processes, procedures, programs, and resources. I expect that when completed, the strategic assessment and rebaselining will be of great value in helping the agency develop its strategic plan and define the direction and response to a changing environment."

Chairman Jackson also has asked that the committee develop a system for periodically updating the assessment so that NRC's agency-wide planning process can be kept current and effective.

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