

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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NRC TO EXPLORE IMPLICATIONS OF DEREGULATION  
AND RESTRUCTURING OF ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will meet December 14 with regulatory and business experts to explore the implications for nuclear safety of the trends toward deregulation and restructuring of the nation's electric power industry.

The two-hour discussion, which will be open to the public, will seek informed judgments from a panel of knowledgeable specialists on how anticipated moves toward deregulation, mergers and widespread competition from a variety of power generating sources may affect the ability and determination of utilities which operate relatively high cost nuclear power plants to maintain high safety standards. Another question is whether the Commission should require binding agreements from newly created corporations or holding companies to be clearly liable for nuclear power decommissioning costs.

The NRC is reevaluating its rules, regulations and procedures to decide whether changes may be called for in light of the rapidly changing environment in that portion of the electric industry which it regulates.

Joining NRC Chairman Shirley Ann Jackson and Commissioner Kenneth Rogers for the discussion will be: Elizabeth Ann Moler, Chair, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Robert W. Gee, Commissioner, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, and Chairman of the Electricity Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; Dr. E. Linn Draper, Jr., Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Electric Power Service Corp.; and Caren Byrd, Principal, Morgan Stanley & Co. Inc.

The exploratory discussion will begin at 10 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room on the first floor of the NRC's One White Flint North headquarters at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

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