

No. 92-109
Tel. 301-504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, July 21, 1992)

NRC OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM REGULATORY
ORGANIZATIONS IN FORMER SOVIET UNION MEET

Senior staff members from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the heads of nuclear regulatory organizations in Russia and the Ukraine are meeting in Washington July 20 to 24 to discuss nuclear safety and regulatory initiatives that can be taken to implement mutual regulatory assistance in the two countries.

The meetings will be the first under a \$25 million program announced in Lisbon, Portugal, recently by Secretary of State James Baker. Under the terms of the program, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is to have the lead for nuclear safety and regulatory initiatives and the Department of Energy the lead for operational safety initiatives.

Initiatives which have been proposed by the NRC staff for discussion at the July 20-24 sessions include:

Provide the Russian regulatory organization (GOSATOMNAZDOR) and the Ukrainian regulatory organization (also GOSATOMNAZDOR) with assistance in performing fire hazard analysis and related inspection of power reactors in the two republics to develop remedial and preventive actions.

Provide training on selected NRC inspection techniques and evaluation methods including the fundamentals of inspections, accident and incident investigation, root cause analysis and inspections for performance.

Provide training in design and construction considerations employed in the United States including fire protection, welding technology and codes, nondestructive examination technology and codes and inservice inspections.

NRC staff participation in systematic safety inspections conducted at operating reactors in Russian and the Ukraine by the GOSATOMNAZDOR organizations.

Have representatives from the two countries observe and participate in the NRC's standard review plan update and development programs.

Provide assistance in the implementation and application of analytical computer codes and methodologies in performing safety analysis of operating nuclear power plants.

Host Russian and Ukrainian regulators at the NRC's training center in Chattanooga, Tennessee; enroll them in appropriate training courses there and assist them in the development of their training course materials and the specifications for their training center.

Assist the two GOSATOMNAZDOR organizations in upgrading or establishing emergency response centers.

In addition, the Russian and Ukraine regulatory chiefs are expected to provide their own recommendations for areas of assistance.

The NRC staff delegation will be headed by Executive Director for Operations James Taylor and the Russian and Ukrainian delegations also will meet separately with NRC Chairman Ivan Selin and other members of the Commission.

#