

No.: 93-29
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, March 18, 1993)

NRC STAFF SCHEDULES PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON PROCUREMENT
AND DEDICATION OF COMMERCIAL GRADE ITEMS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public workshop for April 21 and 22 in Dallas/Fort Worth to discuss with nuclear industry representatives and other members of public the procurement and dedication of commercial grade items and to solicit comments on the NRC's draft inspection guidance related to those activities.

Commercial grade items are those purchased from a manufacturer or supplier on the basis of a published description such as a catalog and then dedicated to a specific use (often in a safety system) in a NRC-licensed nuclear power plant.

The workshop will consist of a plenary session, breakout sessions and a summary session.

During the plenary session, representatives of the NRC staff will discuss recent NRC activities related to commercial grade procurement and dedication since the completion of a pilot inspection program, an overview of key dedication issues and the general content of the proposed inspection procedure and its related enforcement plans. Representatives of the Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) will discuss industry perspectives and positions related to these issues.

The breakout sessions will concentrate on: dedication issues including the selection and verification of critical characteristics, like-for-like replacements and surveys; dedication issues including sampling, traceability and material certification; and the inspection process.

The breakout sessions will be followed by a closing session at which breakout session leaders will summarize the results of the group discussions and provide an opportunity for a question and answer period.

The workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, and 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon on Thursday, April 22. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the

Dallas/Fort Worth Airport (P.O. Box 619014, Dallas, Texas 75261; telephone: 214/453-1234). Those planning to participate are requested to complete a registration form and send it directly to the Hyatt Regency.

Registration forms and additional information can be obtained by contacting Ms. Karen Brunson (Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; telephone: 301/504-2961).

Written comments from interested parties will be considered through May 21 and should be directed to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

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