

No. 94-9  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Tuesday, January 18, 1994)

NRC STAFF PLANS REGIONAL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS STATE  
CONCERNS RELATED TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LICENSE RENEWALS

The NRC staff has scheduled three regional meetings to discuss concerns raised by state officials on the NRC's proposed rule on the environmental review which would be required in connection with applications to renew operating licenses for nuclear power plants.

The staff is particularly interested in obtaining the views of state officials and other interested parties on how the need for generating capacity and alternative energy sources should be treated in the final rule on environmental review.

After reviewing the proposed rule, some state officials identified issues which they see as being in conflict with the traditional authority of the states with respect to questions of need, reliability, cost, resource options and other non-safety aspects of nuclear power generation.

The meetings, all of which will begin at 10 a.m. local time, will be held on February 9 in Rockville, Maryland; on February 15 in Rosemont, Illinois; and on February 17 in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

The Rockville meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 1705 Rockville Pike, Rockville 20852; the Rosemont meeting will be at The Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5440 North River Road, Rosemont 60018; and the Chicopee meeting will be held at the Parwick Centre, 450 Memorial Drive, Chicopee 01020.

In addition, the staff is asking for written comments on these issues.

To facilitate discussions of these issues with state officials, the staff has prepared a paper "Addressing the Concerns of States and Others Regarding the Role of Need for Generating Capacity, Alternative Energy Sources, Utility Costs and Cost-Benefit Analysis in NRC Environmental Reviews for Relicensing Nuclear Power Plants: A NRC Staff Discussion Paper".

A copy of the paper may be obtained by contacting Donald P. Cleary, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; telephone 301/492-3936.

The meetings will be conducted in a panel format with panelists representing states that submitted comments on the treatment, in the draft rule, of need for generating capacity and alternative energy sources as well as representatives of other interested states, electric utilities, interest groups concerned with the economic regulation of electric utilities and the NRC staff.

Interested members of the public also are invited to attend and time will be provided during each meeting to take comments and questions from the floor.

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