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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Monday, August 8, 1994)

NRC PUBLISHES DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT
ON AGREEMENT STATE PROGRAM

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is requesting comments on a draft policy statement on the Agreement State Program. The draft establishes new Agreement State program principles, and describes the respective roles and responsibilities of the NRC and the 29 States in the program. The request for comments was published in the Federal Register on August 5 for a 60-day comment period.

Agreement States are states which have assumed regulatory authority from NRC over the possession and use of certain radioactive materials.

On August 25, 1993, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requested its staff to recommend improvements in the Agreement State Program to assure adequate protection of the public health and safety. The draft policy statement responds to the first area the Commission requested be considered, "improvements in guidance and principles of operations for the Agreement State Program." The draft is an "umbrella" policy statement describing the NRC's and the State's respective responsibilities and expectations.

In addition, an attachment entitled "Specific Review Area Recommendations," and draft internal procedures on the NRC process to be applied when a State agreement is suspended or terminated, also are being published for comment.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; ATTN: Docketing and Services Branch by October 5. Comments can be delivered to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on workdays. For further information, contact Ms. Maria Lopez-Otin, Federal Liaison, Office of State Programs, NRC, telephone (301) 504-2598.

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