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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION
OF ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT NOVEMBER 15-16 IN ROCKVILLE, MD

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public workshop for two days, November 15-16, in Rockville, Maryland to solicit information and comments on several technical issues related to environmental qualification (EQ) of electric equipment for nuclear power plants.

The workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 1750 Rockville Pike.

Part 50 of the Commission's regulations set forth the requirements for environmental qualification of electric equipment. As a result of staff activities in license renewal and recent test results from Sandia National Laboratories, questions have been raised about the potential risk of equipment failures including accident performance capability of certain electrical cables.

During the first day of the workshop, presentations will include artificially accelerated aging practices, condition monitoring methods of naturally aged cables, operating experience, and current qualification testing methods. For the second day, breakout discussion sessions will be held on these same topics with session chairmen reporting in the afternoon plenary session. Participation is anticipated by foreign EQ experts in these sessions.

To foster meaningful discussions among workshop participants, an opportunity for questions and comments will be provided following each presentation. The NRC staff has also developed a set of questions that identify selected EQ issues related to near-term and long-term research activities. These questions can be found in a notice published in the Federal Register on October 5, 1993.

Written comments will be accepted before, during and after the workshop until December 17, 1993. Comments may be sent to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hand-delivered comments will be accepted at 7920 Norfolk Ave., Bethesda, Maryland 20814, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

Individuals and organization representatives who plan to attend the workshop should notify Robert Lofaro, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, telephone 516-282-2114 or FAX 516-282-3957. Notifications to Mr. Lofaro should be received by October 29 and should indicate whether a statement or presentation will be made during the workshop. The NRC technical contact is Satish Aggarwal, telephone 301-492-3823.

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