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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON DECOMMISSIONING ISSUES

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Ivan Selin will be the keynote speaker at a public workshop to be held by the NRC on November 29 and 30 in Rockville, Maryland. The subject is site characterization for decommissioning of radioactively contaminated sites. Commissioner E. Gail de Planque will also speak.

Site characterization for decommissioning refers to the process of determining where, how much and what type of radiological contamination exists after a nuclear facility ceases operations permanently. Once these characteristics are known, the licensee can proceed with cleaning up the contamination to a level that meets NRC requirements for termination of the license.

In 1992 the NRC identified inadequate site characterization as one of the technical issues that have delayed approval of decommissioning actions. The workshop will provide an opportunity for exchange of information regarding lessons learned from completed and ongoing site characterizations, as well as presentation of NRC's draft guidance on the subject.

The November 29 workshop sessions will be held in the NRC auditorium at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. (Participants are advised to use public transportation, since parking at NRC is limited.) Chairman Selin's keynote address will begin at 9:45 a.m., and Commissioner de Planque will present a technical paper on background radiation measurements at 11:15 a.m. Other speakers will include NRC staff, representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy and the Department of the Army, NRC licensees and state officials.

The following day, sessions will be conducted at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 1750 Rockville Pike, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and will feature breakout discussion groups, with a final general session.

Persons interested in attending the workshop should register in advance by contacting Boby Eid (301/415-5811) or Mary Hood (301/415-6644) at the NRC.

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