

No. 94-178
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, November 22, 1994)

NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC WORKSHOP
ON POSSIBLE ADVISORY BOARDS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public workshop December 6 to 8 in Washington, D.C., on issues concerning advisory boards that may be required when radioactively contaminated sites are cleaned up prior to license termination.

The workshop will be held in the National Governor's Association Conference Room, Room 333, Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on December 6 and 7 and from 8:30 a.m. to noon on December 8.

On August 22 the Commission published a proposed rule on "Radiological Criteria for Decommissioning" that would establish maximum permissible radiation levels that can exist on site when a nuclear facility shuts down permanently and terminates its NRC license. Under certain conditions, the proposed rule would permit a licensee to request termination of the license when radiation dose levels on the site exceed 15 millirems per year, but are less than 100 millirems per year. (This may be compared to a dose of about 5 millirems of background radiation from a cross-country airline flight.)

However, future use of the site would be restricted, and the licensee would have to convene a "Site Specific Advisory Board" (SSAB) to obtain the views of affected parties before the NRC decides whether to grant the request for restricted release of the property.

Workshop participants will discuss issues such as whether an SSAB should be required for restricted use decommissioning; the SSAB's scope, functions and membership; when it should be initiated and how long it should remain in operation; what access it should have to the licensee's records; and how it should be funded. The objective will not be to develop a consensus, but rather to discuss information, ideas and concerns and identify areas of agreement and disagreement.

The workshop will be facilitated by an independent facilitator and will involve about 15 to 20 invited participants representing a broad range of affected interests, including

-2-

representatives from local, state, tribal and federal governments, as well as from industry and environmental and citizen groups. The event will be open to the public, with time for public comment and questions throughout each day.

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