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NRC TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON LICENSING ACTIONS PROGRAM

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled a public workshop on April 13 in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss a program for commercial power reactors that provides a more expeditious review of license amendment requests which may have little impact on safety but would reduce plant costs.

The workshop will be held in the NRC's auditorium at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The program, designated Cost Beneficial Licensing Actions, is part of the NRC's continuing effort to improve regulatory oversight of licensees. Made available last year, the program places a higher priority on staff reviews of plant specific license amendment requests that reduce or eliminate requirements which have a small effect on safety but a high economic burden on licensees. In the past, license amendment requests with marginal safety significance, but high cost savings, were given the lowest priority for staff review.

An NRC administrative letter issued February 23 to provide more information about the program will also be discussed at the workshop.

Besides the licensing actions program, the staff will discuss current activities of a second program which deals with improvement of the technical specifications that specify the safety limits and conditions under which power reactors operate. In July 1994, the Commission proposed to amend its regulations to codify the criteria for determining the content of technical specifications.

Persons interested in attending the workshop, seeking more information or making a statement should contact Ms. Elizabeth Doolittle, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-001, by telephone 301/415-1247 or by fax at 301-415-2279, by March 31.

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