

No. 93-166
Tel. 301-504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, November 4, 1993)

NRC ISSUES ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
ON FORM AND CONTENT OF DESIGN CERTIFICATION RULES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the form and content of design certification rules for standard design certifications for light-water reactors. The design certifications would be granted through individual rulemakings by adding a separate appendix to Part 52 of the Commission's regulations for each design so certified.

The NRC staff currently is reviewing four applications for standard design certifications: GE Nuclear Energy's Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (SBWR) designs, Asea Brown Boveri/Combustion Engineering's System 80+ and Westinghouse Electric Corporation's AP600. Current schedules suggest that design certification rulemakings for the ABWR and System 80+ designs could begin next year.

A standard design certification could be referenced for a period of 15 years from a date coming 30 days after notice of the standard design certification in the Federal Register. It would remain valid for an applicant or licensee that references it until their application is withdrawn or their license expires.

The Advance Notice describes the information to be referenced in the standard design certification, the process that would be used for making changes in the standard design certification and other information, and specifies the records which would have to be maintained by an applicant or licensee that references a standard design certification.

In addition to asking for general comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission would be particularly interested in the public's views on a number of specific topics which are set forth in the Federal Register notice.

Written comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking associated with Part 52 should be received by January 3, 1994. They should be addressed to the Secretary of the

Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.
20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.