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NRC WITHDRAWS PROPOSAL ON STRATEGIES FOR ASSESSING  
LICENSEES' SAFETY-CONSCIOUS WORK ENVIRONMENT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has withdrawn a proposal for setting up specific regulatory measures to ensure that licensees establish and maintain a safety-conscious work environment. It has taken this action after analyzing public comments received since the proposal was announced almost a year ago.

The standardized approach NRC announced last February would have (1) required licensees to establish and maintain a safety-conscious work environment with clearly defined attributes; (2) established indicators that could be monitored and which collectively could show evidence of an adverse trend; and (3) outlined specific remedial actions NRC might require when it found that a licensee lacked a safety-conscious work environment.

Virtually all who commented agreed that the proposed standardized approach is not warranted and that regulatory actions need to be flexible enough to address situations on a case-by-case basis. After considering these comments, the Commission has concluded that its expectations on achieving safety-conscious work environment were clearly and sufficiently outlined in a May 1996 policy statement and that it has enough regulatory tools to deal with instances when those expectations are not met.

A more detailed discussion of this matter is contained in a notice now available at the NRC Public Document Room in Washington. The notice also will be published shortly in the Federal Register.

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