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FOR IMMEDIATE

(Wednesday, June 25, 1997)

NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR POWER REACTOR  
LICENSEES  
ON USING RISK INFORMATION FOR LICENSING BASIS CHANGES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on drafts of four regulatory guides, three Standard Review Plan sections, and a NUREG document designed to help power reactor licensees use risk information to make changes in their plants' licensing bases.

On August 16, 1995, the NRC staff published in the Federal Register a final policy statement on the use of probabilistic risk assessment methods (a way of estimating the risk associated with nuclear power plant accidents). It was the Commission's intent that risk information be used to enhance safety decision-making, make more efficient use of agency resources and reduce unnecessary burdens on its licensees.

To implement the Commission's policy on the use of risk information in the regulatory process, NRC has developed specific documents that are available for comment. These are:

- Draft regulatory guide DG 1061, "An Approach for Using Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Risk-Informed Decisions on Plant-Specific Changes to the Current Licensing Basis," and its companion SRP, Chapter 19.
- Draft regulatory guide DG-1062, "An Approach for Plant-Specific Risk-Informed, Decision Making: Inservice Testing," and its companion SRP, Chapter 3.9.7.
- Draft regulatory guide DG-1064, "An Approach for Plant-Specific, Risk-Informed Decision Making: Graded Quality Assurance."
- Draft regulatory guide DG-1065, "An Approach for Plant-Specific, Risk-Informed Decision Making: Technical Specifications," and its companion SRP, Chapter 16.1, and

- Draft NUREG-1602, "Use of PRA in Risk-Informed Applications."

To facilitate public comment, the NRC staff intends to conduct a workshop during the comment period to explain the draft documents and answer questions. The time, location and agenda will be published in a future issue of the Federal Register and announced in the NRC's public meeting bulletin board.

The request for public comment has been published in the June 25 edition of the Federal Register. Copies of the draft regulatory guides, Standard Review Plan sections and NUREG report may be obtained by contacting Mark Cunningham, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, T10-E50, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; telephone (301) 415-6189.

Written comments can be mailed to David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. Written comments may also be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on normal Federal workdays.

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