

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 23T85, Atlanta, GA 30303

Ken Clark (Phone: 404/562-4416, E-mail: kmc2@nrc.gov)

Roger Hannah (Phone: 404/562-4417, E-mail: rdh1@nrc.gov)

No: II-00-03

January 14, 2000

NRC to Hold "Roundtable Discussion" at Public Meeting
on New Reactor Oversight Program On January 25 in Chattanooga

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with invited community leaders, industry representatives and members of public interest groups for a "roundtable" discussion of the agency's new reactor oversight process for the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant during a public meeting on Tuesday, January 25, in Chattanooga.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the NRC Technical Training Center, 5746 Marlin Road, Suite 200 in Chattanooga. The roundtable portion of the meeting will be open to public observation. Members of the public will be able to present their views to NRC officials afterward.

The Sequoyah plant, operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, is one of nine nuclear plant sites with 13 reactors that are participating in a pilot program which began June 1 of last year. A public meeting is planned for each plant site. Following a several month trial to determine if revisions are needed, the process is expected to be extended this year to all 103 commercial nuclear power reactors.

The NRC is seeking comments and suggestions from the public on its new reactor oversight process, including the inspection and assessment programs to maintain safety, improve public confidence, increase efficiency and effectiveness, and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden. The changes reflect, in part, improvements in nuclear power plant safety performance over the past 20 years. Plants that perform well will generally have less regulatory oversight than plants that have problems.

The pilot plant sites are: (1) Salem 1 and 2, near Wilmington, Delaware, operated by Public Service Electric & Gas; (2) Hope Creek near Wilmington, Delaware, operated by Public Service Electric & Gas; (3) Fitzpatrick, near Oswego, New York, operated by the Power Authority of the State of New York; (4) Shearon Harris, near Raleigh, North Carolina, operated by Carolina Power & Light; (5) Sequoyah 1 and 2, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority; (6) Prairie Island 1 and 2, near Red Wing, Minnesota, operated by Northern States Power Co.; (7) Quad Cities 1 and 2, near Cordova, Illinois, operated by Commonwealth Edison Co.; (8) Ft. Calhoun, near Omaha, Nebraska, operated by the Omaha Public Power District; and (9) Cooper, near Nebraska City, Nebraska, operated by the Nebraska Public Power District.

Information on the new program, including a list of questions that will be discussed at the meeting, is available on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>.