



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## **ADVISORY PANEL ISSUES REPORT ASSESSING FIRST YEAR OF NRC'S REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS**

An advisory panel has concluded that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's reactor oversight process represents a "a notable improvement" over the previous program, and recommends it be continued.

On May 17, 2000, the Commission directed the NRC staff to convene a panel under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to evaluate the first year's implementation of the reactor oversight process and identify possible improvements. The panel met six times between November 2000 and April of this year.

The panel provided recommendations to ensure NRC's performance goals continue to be met, including establishing an ongoing process to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the reactor oversight process and improving communications with internal and external stakeholders.

The panel included NRC staff from headquarters and regional offices, the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, a PhD candidate from Benedictine University in Illinois, the California Energy Commission, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and representatives from licensees. The NRC selected the panel members to represent the views of diverse groups that had an expressed interest in the changes to the reactor oversight program.

A copy of the panel's report is available for viewing at the NRC Public Document Room at the agency's One White Flint North building, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland; on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ROP/iiep.html> and through ADAMS, the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.

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