



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AGENDA FOR ANNUAL NUCLEAR SAFETY RESEARCH CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking comments on its proposed agenda for the Nuclear Safety Research Conference, which will be held on October 22-24 at the Marriott at Metro Center, located at 775 12 Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C. Formerly known as "The Water Reactor Safety Meeting," the conference is designed to promote dialogue with stakeholders on research matters and gather feedback for future agency regulatory decisions.

The complete proposed agenda is attached. Comments should be forwarded by June 15 via e-mail to Sandra Nesmith, at www.srn@nrc.gov.

D R A F T - June 26, 2001

Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC)
(formerly known as the Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSM))

October 22-24, 2001

**Marriott at Metro Center
(775 12th St. NW, Washington DC)**

Monday, October 22, 2001

8:00-8:15am	Opening Remarks - Ashok Thadani
8:15-9:00am	Keynote Speech - Chairman
9:00-9:30am	Recent Accomplishments - Roy Zimmerman
9:30-12:00pm	Advanced Reactors - Panel Discussion (Coordinator: Tom King) Objective: The panel will give an overview of ongoing programs and discuss the following: safety attributes of advanced designs, key issues with respect to licensing, key issues with respect to development, research needs/priorities, and the outlook for the future. Potential Panel Makeup to Include: NRC (RES and NRR); Industry (e.g., NEI, EPRI, Westinghouse, Exelon); International; Public Interest; State; Congressional; and DOE
12:00-1:30pm	LUNCH
1:30-2:00pm	Plenary - Commissioner Speech

<p>2:00-5:00pm</p>	<p><u>Advanced Reactors Session</u> (Coordinator: T. King)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate specific research activities related to preparing the Agency to license an advanced design.</p> <p><u>Potential Topics for Presentation Include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-application activities (e.g., PBMR, GT-MHR, IRIS) - New technologies for advanced reactors - Development of a Regulatory Framework for advanced reactors - Research needs for advanced reactors - Use of prototype testing to validate analytical tools 	<p><u>Materials/Waste Session</u> (Coordinator: C. Trottier)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To provide a forum to discuss current research initiatives in addressing issues in human and environmental health risk assessment.</p> <p><u>Potential Topics for Presentation Include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRC tools available and under development to support decommissioning decisions on sites of varying complexity - Work underway to develop a probabilistic version of RESRAD-Build for release of buildings - Inter-agency efforts to seek a common technological base for multi-media environmental modeling - Long-term performance of engineered barriers - Efforts underway to revise the basic methodologies for assessing human risk from radiation
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Tuesday, October 23, 2001

<p>8:30-9:00am</p>	<p>Plenary - Commissioner Speech</p>	
<p>9:00 - 12:00pm</p>	<p><u>Dry Cask Research Session</u> (Coordinator: M. Cunningham)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments and future plans in the Office of Research's work to assess key safety and risk issues relating to the licensing of dry cask fuel storage devices.</p> <p><u>Potential Topics for Presentation Include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk analysis of on-site dry cask storage - Assessment of structural integrity for on-site storage - Assessment of fuel and cladding for on-site storage - Assessment of cask performance during transport 	<p><u>Aging Panel</u> (Coordinator: N. Chokshi)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To discuss viewpoints of various stakeholders on some of the key policy and technical issues with emphasis on role of research in addressing them. Some of the key issues are: (1) recent experiences related to aging and degradation (e.g., recent experiences with primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC)); (2) What may be the future challenges?; (3) How do we account for aging effects in the risk-informed regulations?; (4) How do we apply lessons learned to new designs (e.g., implementation of online monitoring)?; and (5) What research is needed to address current and future issues?</p> <p><u>Potential Panel Makeup to Include:</u> US and international experts from industry, regulatory, research, and public interest groups</p>

12:00-1:30pm	LUNCH	
1:30-2:00pm	Plenary - Commissioner Speech	
2:00-5:00pm	<p>Fuel Issues Panel (2:00-4:00) (Coordinator: R. Meyer)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> What issues should be addressed in an NRC safety research program, and is the current spectrum of research projects adequate?</p> <p><u>Potential Panel Makeup to Include:</u> NRC (RES, NRR, NMSS, ACRS) and EPRI</p> <p>Fuel Research Session (4:00-5:00) (Coordinator: R. Meyer)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments in NRC's fuel research program and related programs that are used by NRC through cooperative agreements.</p> <p><u>Potential Topics for Presentation Include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japanese results on effects of hydrogen on behavior of Zircaloy during LOCA - Russian results on mechanical properties of Zr-1% Nb cladding alloys (unirradiated and high burnup) 	<p>Age Related Issues and Research Session (Coordinator: N. Chokshi)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To concentrate on the current issues and research, and include representation of both regulatory and industry activities as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Potential Topics for Presentation Include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent PWSCC events - Implications for the NDE and inspections, LBB considerations, repairs and mitigation, and needed research - Aging issues and management in other industries (e.g., discussion of aging of aircrafts and FAA activities) - Aging and wire system safety - Methods to consider aging effects in probabilistic risk assessments. - Materials and aging factors considered in the advanced design and current research - Aging effects on structures and passive components
Wednesday, October 24, 2001		
8:30-9:00am	Plenary - Commissioner Speech	
9:00-11:00am	<p>Communicating the RES Role and Program - Panel Discussion (Coordinator: Patricia Norry)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> The panel will explore and seek innovative ways to communicate the role and the scope and content of the RES program, with particular emphasis on objectives, products, and regulatory applications.</p> <p><u>Potential Panel Makeup to Include:</u> Trade Press, Public Interest, International, Industry, and Government</p>	
11:00-12:30pm	LUNCH	

<p>12:30-3:00pm</p>	<p><u>Fuel Research Session (Cont'd)</u> (Coordinator: R. Meyer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary results on high-burnup fuel rod testing at ANL under reactor transient conditions and dry storage conditions - Final plans and schedule for S0 test series in Cabri international program - First release of NRC's FRAPTRAN fuel rod transient code by PNNL - Coupling of STUK (Finland) GENFLO thermal-hydraulics code to NRC's FRAPTRAN code - Overview of EPRI's Robust Fuel Program and EPRI's cooperation with NRC 	<p><u>Risk Informing Regulatory Practices Panel</u> (Coordinator: M. Cunningham)</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments and future plans in the Office's work to risk-inform agency regulatory practices, showing the breadth and value of such activities as well as describe key technical issues. Key issues that will be addressed include: (1) second-generation importance measures to improve the realism and efficiency of risk-informed decision making; (2) risk-informing 10 CFR 50 technical requirements - status, issues, future plans; (3) assessment of uncertainties in modern risk analyses (e.g., PTS, SGTR); (4) assessment of human performance in modern risk analyses; (5) improvements in fire risk assessment methods and tools; (6) key perspectives from the review of seventy IPEEEs; (7) key issues in low power and shutdown risk analyses; and (8) use of risk analysis in nuclear material's regulation.</p> <p><u>Potential Panel Makeup to Include:</u> NRC, Universities, EPRI</p>
<p>3:15-3:30pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks - Ashok Thadani</p>	