



# 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 October 28-30 at the Marriott at Metro Center, located at 775 12th 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 conference is an international regulatory gathering attended by researchers, regulators and utility representatives from the United States and some 20 other countries. It will provide participants with the opportunity to interact with NRC officials and colleagues to better understand the agency's research programs and its safety priorities.

The complete proposed agenda is attached. Comments should be forwarded by July 15 via e-mail to Sandra Nesmith, at [srn@nrc.gov](mailto:srn@nrc.gov).

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**  
**Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC)**  
**October 28-30, 2002**  
**Marriott at Metro Center**  
**(775 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington DC)**

**Monday, October 28, 2002**

8:30-8:45am	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	
8:45-9:30am	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	
9:30 - 11:30am	<p><b>Panel Discussion - Advanced Reactors</b></p> <p><u>Objective:</u> This panel will discuss the regulatory research needed to support the licensing of advanced reactor designs and focus on the kind of research that is needed to resolve technical/policy issues.</p> <p><u>Potential panel members to include:</u> Representatives from DOE, Industry, University, public interest groups, and NRC.</p>	
11:30 - 1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00 - 5:00pm	<p><b><u>Degradation of Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Materials</u></b></p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To describe the results of research addressing the response of reactor coolant pressure boundary materials to active degradation mechanisms and mitigation/repair methodologies.</p> <p>Potential topics for presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion of PWSCC, Alloy 600, and welds</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Advanced Reactors Session</u></b></p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To present specific work or planned work on gas cooled reactors and present DOE's envision for Generation IV reactors.</p> <p>Potential topics for presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Test matrix for TRISO fuel</li> <li>- Applications of graphite technology to advanced reactors</li> <li>- Generation IV roadmap</li> <li>- GRSAC code as a regulatory tool</li> </ul>

Tuesday, October 29, 2002

<b>8:30 - 9:30am</b>	<b>Plenary - NRC Chairman Speech</b>	
<b>9:45 - 11:45am</b>	<b><u>Fuels Session</u></b>  <u>Objective:</u> To describe recent work on the technical basis for embrittlement criteria and evaluation models that are applicable at high burnup for loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) analysis and for establishing optional performance-based criteria in 10 CFR 50.45  Potential topics for presentation include:  - Testing of high burnup BWR fuel under simulated LOCA conditions  - Measurement of oxidation kinetics of cladding from high burnup fuel  - Testing for ductility in cladding subjected to LOCA conditions  - Analysis of high burnup fuel behavior under LOCA conditions	<b><u>Formal Decision Methods and Nuclear Safety Research</u></b>  <u>Objective:</u> To describe research activities for developing the technical basis and enhancing the transparency and objectivity of decision-making in the regulatory environment.  Potential topics for presentation include:  - The formal decision making framework  - Probabilistic risk analysis: a component of formal decision-making  - Research activities in the field of regulatory decision-making  - Stakeholder input to the decision-making process
<b>11:45 - 1:15pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>1:15 - 5:00pm</b>	<b><u>Dry Cask Storage and Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel Session</u></b>  <u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent accomplishments and future plans to assess key safety issues related to spent fuel transportation and storage in dry casks.  Potential topics for presentation include:  - Determination of the performance of dry casks during transportation  - Risk Assessment of on-site dry casks  - Assessment of structural integrity of on-site storage casks	<b><u>Fuels Session</u></b>  <u>Objective:</u> To describe recent work on the technical basis for fuel enthalpy criteria that are applicable at high burnup for reactivity-initiated accident (RIA) analysis and for modifying Regulatory Guide 1.77.  Potential topics for presentation include:  - Testing of high burnup fuel under simulated RIA conditions  - Measurement of cladding-to-coolant heat during transients  - Measurement of cladding mechanical properties applicable to RIA conditions  - Analysis of high-burnup fuel behavior under RIA conditions

Wednesday, October 30, 2002

8:30-9:15am	<b>Plenary - Commissioner Speech</b>	
9:30-11:30am	<b>Panel Discussion - Risk Informed Initiatives</b>  <u>Objective:</u> This panel will communicate recent improvements on how NRC uses risk information in regulatory decision making and how work in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research supports such uses.  <u>Potential panel members include:</u> Representatives of industry, EPRI, international organizations, and NRC.	
11:30 - 1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00 - 3:00pm	<b><u>Clearance Session</u> (Session A)</b>  <u>Objective:</u> To discuss the status on the development of the technical basis for control of slightly contaminated materials. Potential topics for presentations include:  - Surveys of volumetric contamination and difficult geometries  - Revision of NUREG-1640 (individual doses)  - Follow-on work to address collective doses	<b><u>PRA Session</u> (Methods/Analysis, and Operational Experience)</b>  <u>Objective:</u> To communicate recent advances in risk analysis methods as well as recent advances in using operational data in agency regulatory activities. Potential topics for presentation include:  - Fire risk analysis  - Human reliability analysis  - Assessment of uncertainties  - PRA standards  - Standardized plant analysis risk (SPAR) models  - Risk-based performance indicators
3:15pm	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	