



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC ANNOUNCES MEETING ON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EPA ON CLEANUP OF RADIOACTIVELY CONTAMINATED SITES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting on November 5 with Environmental Protection Agency staff to discuss the implementation of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding on the radiological decommissioning and decontamination of NRC-licensed sites.

The meeting will be held from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Two White Flint North Auditorium at NRC Headquarters, located at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to meet informally with NRC and EPA staff beginning at 12:30 p.m. and to participate in the meeting at designated points identified on the agenda.

The MOU provides that EPA will defer exercise of authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) for the majority of facilities decommissioned under NRC authority. The MOU includes provisions for NRC and EPA consultation for certain sites, when, at the time of license termination, 1) groundwater contamination exceeds EPA-permitted levels; 2) NRC contemplates restricted release or alternate criteria for release of the site; or 3) residual radioactive soil concentrations exceed levels defined in the MOU.

The MOU does not impose any new requirements on NRC licensees and will reduce the involvement of EPA with NRC licensees who are decommissioning. Most sites are expected to meet the NRC criteria for unrestricted use, and NRC believes that only a few sites will have groundwater or soil contamination in excess of the levels specified in the MOU which trigger consultation with EPA. If there are hazardous materials on the site, EPA may be involved in the cleanup.

A copy of the MOU between NRC and EPA can be accessed at NRC's web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2002/mou2fin.pdf>. For more information about the meeting, contact Patricia Santiago at 301-415-7269, or by e-mail at pas2@nrc.gov; or contact Eric Pogue at 301-415-6064, or by e-mail at erp@nrc.gov.

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