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Public Access to Sensitive NRC Documents

Briefing to EDO November 20, 2001

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Topics

- Background
- Document Collections
- Communication with Entities
- Issues
- Factors in NRC Decision-making

Background

- Previous to ADAMS, NRC documents widely disseminated through:
 - Former Local Public Document Rooms
 - Government Printing Office (GPO)
- Federal Depository Libraries
 - GPO and National Technical Information
 Service's (NTIS) Sales Programs

Document Collections

- Collections vary for these entities in terms of content and format.
- Collections are owned by these entities rather than the NRC.
- A very small number of documents in these collections are now considered sensitive and are being removed from the ADAMS Public Library and restricted from public access in the PDR

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Communication with Entities

- Chairman told RAs that utilities could take actions they believed appropriate with regard to NRC documents housed in libraries.
- Numerous libraries and utilities calling PDR asking for guidance.
- Formally communicated with NTIS and GPO regarding options for removing or restricting public access to sensitive documents.

Issues

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- We can request but not require that entities take actions.
- GPO will not allow removal of indexes to control public access to individual documents on 48x microfiche, which restricts options.
- NRC not currently consistent in public access to its documents.

Factors in NRC Decision-making

- Libraries report low to no usage of NRC document collections
- Limited choices with regard to 48x microfiche collection
- Review of NRC documents and criteria ongoing.
- Any actions taken now may be difficult to undo.