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Ex 4

USA:

- The Exelon Generation Company has requested the NRC to conduct a pre-application review of the feasibility of licensing a Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) in the United States. One of the principal objectives of the review is to establish the general regulatory criteria that would need to be met, including the design requirements and technology demonstrations (e.g., verification testing), that would need to be satisfied as part of a PBMR license application. The NRC has begun the pre-application review, which includes a proposed risk-informed approach for establishing PBMR licensing requirements. The review will include significant PBMR design, technology, and regulatory issue areas such as pebble fuel performance, qualification and fission product retention characteristics; nuclear design; thermal-fluid design; PRA; source term basis and use; postulated events for plant licensing; prototype testing; containment design, and emergency planning. The review is scheduled to be completed late 2002.
- General Atomics and Westinghouse, respectively, have also contacted the NRC on their plans for initiating pre-license application interactions with the staff on the Gas Turbine -Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) and IRIS (International Reactor Innovative and Secure). General Electric also indicated that they may request an NRC review of their European Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR). The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) also briefed the NRC staff on their plans in support of new reactor construction and licensing, including plans for proposing, by the end of 2001, a risk-informed regulatory framework for new plant licensing.
- The pre-application review activity for Westinghouse AP-1000 is continuing and will conclude in 2002. A design certification application for the AP-1000 is also anticipated in 2002.
- The Nuclear Safety Research Conference (formally known as the Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSM)) will be held this year October 22-24, 2001, at the Marriott Hotel (Metro Center) in Washington, D.C. The invitation announcement, agenda, and registration information will be provided on the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/RES/meetings.htm>).
- I also gave a brief summary of the CSNI/CNRA workshop held the week before in Paris on the Role of Research in the Regulatory Context. Three panels were held which covered (1) expectations of the regulators in terms of regulatory research, (2) concerns of declining budget and research infrastructure, (3) the need for strengthening cooperation between regulators and industry, (4) commonality and differences between the panels. (See summary of the meeting - Item B, above)

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