



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

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NRC PARTICIPATING IN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MEETING FEB. 24 ON FIRST PHASE OF NRC-SPONSORED ANALYSIS OF CANCER RISKS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will present information during the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) first committee meeting of the NRC-sponsored study, "Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations Near Nuclear Facilities: Phase 1." The meeting's public session will occur during the afternoon of Feb. 24 at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, in Washington, D.C.

The NRC will explain the agency's rationale for asking the NAS to conduct this study, along with the NRC's expectations, to the Committee. Members of the public are welcome to attend the open session, which will also be webcast. The NAS website (www.nationalacademies.org/cancerriskstudy) has additional details and will also provide any updates on the meeting. General questions on the study can be sent via e-mail to: crs@nas.edu.

The NAS project will update the 1990 U.S. National Institutes of Health – National Cancer Institute (NCI) report, "Cancer in Populations Living Near Nuclear Facilities" (<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/nuclear-facilities>). The NRC uses the 1990 NCI report as a primary resource when communicating with the public about cancer mortality risk in counties that contain or are adjacent to nuclear power facilities. In the new study, the NRC is asking the NAS to evaluate cancer diagnosis rates, in addition to mortality risk, for populations living near decommissioned, operating and proposed NRC-licensed nuclear facilities. Phase 1 of the NAS study will determine whether a technically defensible approach to meet the goals of the study request is feasible – and if so, the approach will be developed using scientifically sound processes for evaluating cancer risk that could be associated with nuclear facilities.

The National Academy of Sciences is a non-governmental organization chartered by the U.S. Congress to advise the nation on issues of science, technology, and medicine. Through the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, it carries out studies independently of the government using processes designed to promote transparency, objectivity, and technical rigor. More information on NAS methods for performing studies is available at: <http://www.nationalacademies.org/studycommitteprocess.pdf>.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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