



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC PRESENTING AT NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES MEETING APRIL 18 IN CHICAGO REGARDING NRC-SPONSORED CANCER RISK STUDY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will present information during the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) second 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 on April 18 at the Chicago Marriott Southwest at Burr Ridge in Burr Ridge, Ill., near Chicago.

In the morning session, the NRC will explain the agency's program for keeping offsite doses as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) and be available to answer committee member questions. Additional speakers in the morning will discuss the background and current status of U.S. cancer registries. In the afternoon session the committee will break-out into three technical working groups to discuss in-depth 1) dosimetry, 2) cancer registries, and 3) epidemiology and statistics. Members of the public are welcome to attend both the morning and afternoon open session, which will also be webcast. The NAS website has additional details (dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/nrsb/agenda/agendadraft4-4.pdf), although they are subject to change. General questions on the study can be sent via e-mail to crs@nas.edu.

The NAS project (www.nationalacademies.org/cancerriskstudy) will update the 1990 U.S. National Institutes of Health – National Cancer Institute (NCI) report, "Cancer in Populations Living Near 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 NAS 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 www.nationalacademies.org/studycommitteprocess.pdf.