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## **NRC Meeting March 13-14 in Rockville, Md., Seeks Input on Reactor Fuel Behavior During Postulated Accidents**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will meet with the public, industry representatives and other interested parties March 13 and 14 in Rockville, Md., to discuss technical issues the agency should consider in upcoming research on nuclear fuel safety.

The meeting will run from noon-5 p.m. on March 13, and from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on March 14, in the Commission Hearing Room at 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville. Staff from the NRC's Offices of Nuclear Regulatory Research and Nuclear Reactor Regulation will discuss their work to date on how high-burnup nuclear fuel pellets might fragment under certain conditions during an accident where a reactor loses cooling water. The staff will also discuss whether fuel pellet fragments might be released through breaks in the fuel pin cladding.

The NRC staff invites the public to join the meeting's discussions with academic and industry researchers, utilities, and international regulators. The meeting includes a teleconference and Webinar for those unable to attend in person. Call-in and Webinar information is available by contacting Michelle Flanagan at 301-251-7547 or [michelle.flanagan@nrc.gov](mailto:michelle.flanagan@nrc.gov).

The staff is also interested in discussing how the research into fuel behavior could affect analysis of specific postulated accidents:

- A reactor ejecting a control rod out of the core;
- A break in the piping carrying steam to the plant's turbine; and
- A single pressurized-water reactor coolant pump locking up or breaking its drive shaft.

Anyone interested in making a presentation on these topics should contact Michelle Flanagan by March 5. Presentation proposals should include how much time the presenter expects to need.