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NRC Meeting Aug. 26 to Discuss Proposed Language For Consolidated Accident Mitigation Rule

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with members of the public and industry representatives Aug. 26 in Rockville, Md., to discuss potential rule language that would enhance U.S. nuclear power plants' ability to respond to a reactor accident. The rulemaking is part of the NRC's efforts to implement the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident in March 2011.

The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 6-A28 of the NRC's Three White Flint North building, 11601 Landsdown St. in Rockville. The staff will discuss their efforts in crafting the rule, as well as how the agency examines how accident mitigation imposes new requirements on existing plants. Industry representatives will discuss the mitigation strategy guidance they've created to this point. The public will be able to comment and ask questions at several points in the meeting.

The public can participate via teleconference and webinar. Anyone interested in calling in or using the webinar should contact Jennifer Tobin at 301-415-2328 or jennifer.tobin@nrc.gov by Aug. 22 to ensure proper resources are available. The preliminary proposed rule language will be available on Regulations.gov under Docket IDs NRC-2011-0299 and NRC-2012-0031; as well as on ADAMS, the NRC's electronic document database, under accession number ML14218A253.

The proposed rule would create permanent regulations for future reactors, based on the concepts of an Order the NRC issued to all U.S. plants in March 2012. Under the Order, plants must obtain resources and create integrated plans and procedures to restore and maintain key safety functions if an external event, such as an earthquake or a flood, impacts the installed power distribution and safety systems.