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# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Enhancing Participation in NRC Public Meetings

**Comment On:** NRC-2016-0178-0001  
Enhancing Participation in Public Meetings; Request for Comments on Proposed Revision to Policy Statement

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

It is unclear how this proposed revision compares to the previous meeting levels or how the proposed changes will enhance public participation. Please do a comparison between the old and the new, so this is clear.

Also, it appears the Observation meeting will not allow questions from the public. I emailed the NRC contact, Lance Rakovan, and he said that is not the case and I should submit comments to this docket if this is not clear. Therefore, please clarify.

It is critical the public be able to ask questions and make comments via conference lines in all meeting levels. To describe a meeting as an "observation" meeting and then to not specifically state that the public can ask questions in an observation meeting is misleading.

In addition, since your goal is to enhance public participation, please implement the following recommendations. These changes will make the process more effective and efficient for both the NRC and public. It also eliminates hours of individual communications currently required between the NRC and the public to obtain information about past, current and future meetings.

1. Include bridge-line number in all meeting notices.
2. Provide links to presentations and documents related to those meetings as soon as they are available. In the meeting notice, include the link where these documents will be found.

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*Add = L. Rakovan (KSR2)*

3. Post meeting summaries and document links together with meeting agendas so people can more easily find documents when looking for meeting information past and present. I know this is supposed to happen for past meetings under Meeting Archives, but it is not currently enforced. For example, the 8/5/2014 meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute on Chloride Induced Stress Corrosion Cracking Regulatory Issue Resolution Protocol still has not been posted in the archive, even after multiple written and verbal requests. Here's a link to the meeting summary and some related documents. <http://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1425/ML14258A087.html> Here's the webpage where it should be listed: <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/public-involvement.html>

4. Improve sound quality on bridge lines. It is very typical that all those speaking in the meeting cannot be heard on the bridge line. This is an on-going problem that needs to be addressed more proactively. If this means you need more speakers in the room or better quality speakers, that is a minor cost that should be implemented immediately. Attempts to address this on each call have only been partially effective.

5. There should also be a method to sign up to be notified for specific categories of meetings. For example, people interested in meetings on spent fuel storage and transportation should be added to a listserv that will be sent an email when one of those meetings is scheduled. This will be particularly helpful when there is short-notice to meetings.

6. The public should be able to ask the other participants in the meeting questions relevant to their presentations. Currently, only questions to NRC staff are addressed.

NRC public meetings are very valuable. Implementing the above recommended changes should enhance public participation.

Thank you,

Donna Gilmore  
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