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NRC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Regulatory Basis for Small Modular Reactors Emergency Preparedness Requirements

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on a draft regulatory basis for new emergency preparedness requirements for small modular reactors and other new technologies, such as non-light water reactor facilities.

In addition to accepting written comments, NRC staff will conduct a public meeting May 10 to discuss the draft regulatory basis. The meeting will be held from 9-11:30 a.m., in the Two White Flint North auditorium at the NRC's headquarters in Rockville, Md. Visitors will need to enter through One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike. Additional information on the meeting, including a telephone bridge line, will be made available in a public meeting notice.

A regulatory basis is an early stage in the rulemaking process in which the NRC staff explains the rationale for developing new regulatory requirements and seeks input from the public. After the regulatory basis is finalized, the staff will develop a proposed rule, which will also be issued for public comment before the staff produces a final rule. The draft regulatory basis, in part, explains why the NRC believes the existing regulations should be updated, revised, and/or enhanced; presents alternatives to rulemaking; and discusses costs and other impacts of the potential changes.

The nuclear power industry is developing small modular reactors and other advanced reactor technologies that differ in size, scope and hazard from the large light-water reactors operating in the U.S. today. Their smaller size or innovative safety features are likely to lead to lower risk or less challenging accident conditions than today's reactors. This rulemaking would establish emergency preparedness requirements appropriate to these technologies. Existing requirements for current reactors will not be part of the scope of this rulemaking.

The draft regulatory basis is available in the NRC's ADAMS online database at [ML16309A332](#). Comments will be accepted through June 27. A [Federal Register notice](#), published April 13, explains several ways to submit comments, including over the federal government's rulemaking website, [www.regulations.gov](#), using Docket ID NRC-2015-0225.