



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO PERMIT CAMERA COVERAGE OF ITS LICENSING HEARINGS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has decided that, on a trial basis, it will permit cameras to be used by news media in covering proceedings before Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards and Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Boards. The NRC is one of the first Federal agencies to permit such camera coverage.

The cameras may be used provided they do not require additional lighting beyond that required for the conduct of the hearing and are stationed at a fixed position in the hearing room throughout the proceeding.

In the past the NRC has permitted cameras to be used only before and after hearings and during recesses. A number of television stations and newspapers have requested the Commission to change that policy and permit camera coverage of the hearing sessions.

In a policy statement, the Commission noted that it will continue to be the practice of the hearing and appeal boards to use Federal or state court rooms when these facilities are available and in such cases the policy of those courts in regard to the use of cameras will be observed. However, it is expected that a substantial number of NRC hearings will be open to cameras.

The Commission plans to reassess its policy in about six months after its licensing and appeal boards have had sufficient experience with camera coverage to determine whether it can be carried out without disruption of the proceeding or unacceptable distraction to the participants.

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