

MR. MYERS: Please report on the Commission's progress in developing with EPA the Radiation Site Cleanup Regulation (40 CFR 196) and Radiological Criteria for Decommissioning (10 CFR 20). Briefly describe how these will be applied to the Environmental Management program of the Department of Energy.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON:

NRC proposed its radiological criteria for decommissioning rule (10 CFR 20) in August 1994. Since then we have been reviewing public comments on the rulemaking, conducting additional assessments of the costs and benefits of the rule, coordinating the regulations with EPA, and developing technical guidance that would be required to implement the rule.

EPA has developed a draft proposed rule on cleanup standards (40 CFR 196), which is currently under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The proposed rule is similar in most respects to NRC's proposed rule. NRC has reviewed an earlier version of the draft proposed EPA standards and is developing comments to discuss with OMB.

The staff is planning to consult with the Commission in April on the schedule for completion of NRC's rule. The two principal options are to wait until after completion of EPA's standards or proceed to complete the Part 20 requirements at this time.

There has been extensive cooperation between NRC and EPA in developing the two rules. Several issues remain to be resolved, however, between the agencies. These include: (1) the need for the separate groundwater protection limit which EPA desires, (2) alternative standards when compliance with an established dose limit is not feasible, and (3) implementing requirements for the dose standards, including provisions for allowing restricted release of facilities after cleanup.

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EPA's proposed standards would apply to the remediation of sites under DOE's Environmental Management Program. NRC does not regulate DOE's remediation program. Thus, NRC's requirements will not apply to DOE remediation.

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