

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Workshop Concerning The Revision of the Baseline Safety Inspection Program for Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

ACTION: Notice of Public Workshop

SUMMARY: NRC will host a public workshop at the Doubletree Hotel in Rockville, Maryland for those regulated by the NRC and other stakeholders to provide and explain their views concerning NRC plans to revise its safety inspection program for nuclear fuel cycle facilities. This workshop follows the recent public stakeholder meetings held at NRC Headquarters on September 16 and October 20, 1999. Presentations given at each meeting together with a transcript of the meeting will be placed on the NRC INTERNET web page (<http://www.nrc.gov>). Similar to the revisions of the inspection and oversight program for commercial nuclear power plants, NRC initiated an effort to improve its inspection program for nuclear fuel cycle facilities. This is described in SECY-99-188 titled, EVALUATION AND PROPOSED REVISION OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE FACILITY SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM. SECY-99-188 is available in the Public Document Room and on the N R C Web Page at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html>.

PURPOSE: To provide those regulated by the NRC and other stakeholders an opportunity to explain their views concerning the NRC's planned revision of the fuel cycle safety inspection program. The safety inspection program applies to nuclear fuel cycle facilities regulated under 10 CFR Parts 40, 70 and 76. The facilities currently include gaseous diffusion plants, highly enriched uranium fuel fabrication facilities, low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication facilities, and a uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) production facility. These facilities possess large quantities of

DF03

materials that are potentially hazardous (i.e., radioactive, toxic, and/or flammable) to the workers, public, and/or environment. In revising the inspection program, the goals are to have an inspection program that: 1) provides earlier and more objective indications of acceptable and changing safety performance, 2) increases stakeholder confidence in the NRC, and 3) increases regulatory effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard, the NRC desires the revised inspection program to be more risk-informed and performance-based and more focused on significant risks. Where practicable, the program will use more objective safety performance indicators (PIs) with accompanying performance thresholds.

The safety rationale for NRC inspection commensurate with risk (hazards and controls) will be discussed in the context of establishing indicators of licensee performance. The focus of the workshop will be consideration of performance indicators (i.e., precursors) that will reliably indicate when there is a need for corrective action to preclude exceeding regulatory limits which were established to preclude adverse impacts on the public or worker health and safety or the environment.

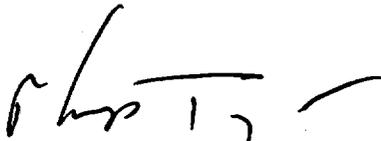
DATE: The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

ADDRESS: Doubletree Hotel, Regency Conference Room, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Parking is limited around the hotel; however, the hotel is located adjacent to the Twinbrook Station on the Metro Red Line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Walter Schwink, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-7253, e-mail wss@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 22nd day of November, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,



Philip Ting, Chief

Operations Branch

Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards