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NRC STAFF TO CONDUCT PUBLIC WORKSHOP
ON LICENSE RENEWAL SEPTEMBER 30 IN BETHESDA, MD

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public workshop on September 30 in Bethesda, Maryland, to receive comments on how best to take advantage of existing licensee activities and programs in addressing aging during the license renewal term of a nuclear power plant.

The workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Versailles Ballrooms 3 and 4 at the Holiday Inn, 8120 Wisconsin Avenue.

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 limits the licenses of existing operating nuclear power plants to a maximum of 40 years but allows operating licenses to be renewed. In December 1991, the Commission added a new Part 54 to its regulations which, for the first time, contains the procedures, criteria and standards for renewing operating licenses.

Several license renewal implementation issues were identified by the nuclear industry and, in late 1992 and early 1993, the NRC staff conducted an internal senior management review and a number of public meetings. As a result of the meetings and the internal NRC review, the staff prepared two Commission policy papers with recommendations regarding resolutions for proposed key license renewal issues.

In a requirements memorandum to the NRC staff in June 1993, addressing the recommendations in the two policy papers, the Commission said it is essential that there be a predictable and stable regulatory process for licensees to make decisions on license renewal. The Commission also directed the NRC staff to convene a public workshop to evaluate alternative approaches to how best to take advantage of licensee activities and programs for concluding that aging will be addressed in an acceptable manner during an extended period of operation.

The workshop will also include discussion on the extent to which greater reliance can be placed on the NRC's maintenance rule as a basis for concluding that the effects of aging will be

effectively managed during the license renewal term. The workshop will not be limited to discussion of approaches that

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could only be pursued under language of the current license renewal rule and may include discussions concerning the potential need for additional rulemaking on Part 54.

During the morning of the workshop, the NRC staff will present an overview of license renewal rulemaking and discuss four proposed alternative license renewal approaches. In the afternoon session, workshop participants will be given time to make presentations of alternative approaches.

To foster meaningful discussions during the workshop, the NRC staff has presented a set of questions and the four proposed alternative license renewal approaches in a notice published in the Federal Register on August 12. Written comments will be accepted before, during and after the workshop until October 12. Written comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practical.

Individuals and organization representatives who plan to attend the workshop should notify Thomas G. Hiltz, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Mail Stop OWFN 11-F-23, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone 301-504-1105. Notifications to Mr. Hiltz should be received by September 15 and should indicate whether a statement or presentation will be made during the workshop.

Written comments may be sent to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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