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Coordination and Information Exchange Meetings Between the NRC Staff and Organizations Involved in the Study of the Nuclear Power Industry; Policy Statement

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Policy statement.

SUMMARY: This statement presents the policy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with respect to the exchange of technical information between the NRC staff and organizations which are studying various aspects of the safety of nuclear power plants. The NRC finds the information provided by such groups to be useful as supplemental to the studies and information which it generates or receives from other sources in fulfillment of its responsibilities to ensure the health and safety of the public. This Policy Statement provides guidance to the Commission staff when it meets with such groups. Nothing in this Policy Statement shall limit the authority of the NRC to conduct or commission studies or to constitute advisory committees, when appropriate. This Policy Statement does not require the NRC to meet with any group with which it does not wish to meet. No new rights or privileges are bestowed upon any group by virtue of this Policy Statement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 11, 1985.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theresa W. Hajost, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone: (202) 634-1493

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Policy Statement

To assist in meeting the NRC's statutory and regulatory objectives relating to the safety of nuclear power plants, the staff of the Commission may periodically participate in coordination and information exchange meetings with personnel of organizations generally involved in the study of the nuclear power industry, such as Critical Mass Energy Project (CMEP), Edison Electric Institution (EEI), Government Accountability Project (GAP), the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), Nuclear Utility Management and Human Resources Committee (NUMARC), and Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). The NRC finds the information obtained from such organizations to be potentially useful as

a supplement to the studies and information which it generates or receives from other sources in fulfillment of its regulatory responsibilities. The purpose of this Policy Statement is to clarify the purposes and scope of such meetings and provide guidance to the participants in the conduct of these meetings.

Coordination meetings involving staff of the NRC and personnel from organizations who are involved in the study of the nuclear power industry are only for the purposes of the exchange of information and data generally relating to the safety of nuclear power plants. These meetings are generally intended to provide an opportunity for the NRC to obtain technical information and data about the operations of nuclear power plants and current information about specific organizations' activities, plans, and projects relating to nuclear plant safety. Meetings also may provide an opportunity for NRC staff to comment upon the activities, projects, and plans of nuclear power industry organizations, and to keep these organizations apprised of the NRC's activities, plans, and projects relating to nuclear power plant safety.¹ Coordination meetings may also involve written or oral status reports on joint projects or activities involving the NRC and organizations involved in the study of the nuclear power industry.

However, such coordination meetings held with organizations involved in the study of the nuclear power industry are not for the purpose of obtaining the organizations' advice or recommendations on regulatory issues or policies within the scope of the NRC's responsibilities, and such advice or recommendations are outside the scope of these meetings.

Dated at Washington, DC this 8th day of October 1985.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Samuel J. Chilk,
Secretary of the Commission.