

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234
Internet:opa@nrc.gov

99-184

For immediate release
(Tuesday, August 31, 1999)

NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH PUBLIC TO UPDATE POLICIES RELATED TO THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will meet with public interest groups, industry representatives and members of the general public on September 17 to discuss the agency response to concerns on issues related to the release of information to the public.

At a meeting held July 9, participants expressed concerns with a number of NRC's practices in this area. In the upcoming meeting, the staff will discuss the agency's efforts to improve document-handling processes.

The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. until noon in the auditorium of the agency's Two White Flint North building at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. The NRC headquarter's complex is near the White Flint Station on the Washington Metro Red Line at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Marinelli Road.

Some of the issues to be discussed include:

- The time delay between issuance of a document and its availability in the Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW, Washington DC
- The process used for issuing advance copies of documents where there is a high degree of public interest
- Improved availability of handouts for public meetings
- Simplification of the public comment process for documents, to encourage the involvement of all stakeholders
- The agency's new document management system and ease of public access;
- Improvements in updating documents on the agency's web page, to reduce inconsistencies.

Following brief statements by the NRC staff, most of the meeting will be held in a round-table format to facilitate discussions.

Members of the public who wish to speak at the meeting or seek additional information should contact Louise Lund, at 301-415-8508.

###