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***NRC PROPOSES CHANGES TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS  
FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS***

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations on reporting requirements for nuclear power plants.

The NRC staff believes that the proposed changes would not eliminate reporting for significant events that the NRC needs to review in its efforts to identify and resolve safety issues. However, the changes would reduce or eliminate the unnecessary reporting burden associated with events of little or no safety significance.

The amendments would also revise the requirements based on importance to risk and extend the reporting times consistent with the need for prompt NRC action. For those events requiring immediate NRC action, such as emergency declarations, reports would continue to be required within one hour.

For example, the proposed amendments would require a report to NRC within eight hours if an event or condition occurred that could keep a structure or system from fulfilling its safety function if the plant is in a mode where the structure or system is required to be operable. Currently such events or conditions must be reported within four hours. Written licensee event reports would be due within 60 days after discovery of a reportable event or condition, instead of within 30 days as is currently required.

The NRC previously discussed the proposed changes to reporting requirements in an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking published last summer in the Federal Register and at three public meetings held last year. The proposed changes to NRC reporting requirements incorporate suggestions and concerns expressed by members of the public during those forums and in 21 written comments submitted by members of industry and the public.

Details of the proposed rule changes were published in the Federal Register July 6. A draft report, NUREG-1022, Revision 2, "Event Reporting Guidelines 10CFR 50.72 and 50.73" is also being made available for public comment concurrently with the proposed rule. The proposed rule and the NUREG document will be posted to the NRC's homepage at: <http://ruleforum.inl.gov>. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on both the proposed rule and the NUREG document by September 20. Comments should be sent to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. Comments may also be submitted electronically via the NRC's interactive rulemaking web site at <http://ruleforum.inl.gov>.

Because the proposed rule contains information collection requirements that are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), NRC has submitted a review

package to OMB. NRC also will hold a public workshop to discuss the proposed rule changes at a date to be announced.

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