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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Tuesday, September 15, 1998)

NRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS TO MEET IN ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) has scheduled a meeting September 30-October 2 in Rockville, Maryland.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in conference room T-2B3 in the NRC's Two White Flint North Building at 11545 Rockville Pike.

The meeting may include closed sessions, if required, to discuss proprietary or personnel information. Here is the complete meeting agenda:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:30 - 8:45 a.m. -- Opening remarks by the ACRS chairman.

8:45 - 10:00 a.m. -- Discussion on the proposed ACRS report on impact of probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) results and insights on the regulatory system.

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. -- Discussion with NRC staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) regarding NEI's petition to modify 10 CFR Part 50.54(a) to eliminate the requirement for licensees to obtain NRC approval prior to making changes to their quality assurance programs.

12:45 - 2:15 p.m. -- Discussions with NRC staff and the nuclear industry regarding a pilot application of a risk-informed approach for post-accident hydrogen monitoring at Arkansas Nuclear One.

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. -- Discussion with a representative of Performance Technology, Inc., on criteria for safety decisions and comments on Regulatory Guide 1.174 (previously DG-1061).

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. -- Presentations and discussions by the NRC staff and owners' groups regarding industry initiatives to certify PRAs.

4:45 - 7:00 p.m. -- Discussion of proposed ACRS reports

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:30 - 8:35 a.m. -- Opening remarks by the ACRS chairman

8:35 - 10:00 a.m. -- Lessons learned from the independent safety assessment at the Maine Yankee nuclear plant and generic safety implications.

10:15 - Noon -- Format and content of the 1999 ACRS reports to Congress and the Commission on the NRC safety research program.

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. -- Report of the planning and procedures subcommittee on the conduct of ACRS business and qualifications of candidates for membership.

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. -- Recommendations of items for future consideration by the full Committee.

2:45 - 7:00 p.m. -- Discussion of proposed ACRS reports.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. -- Discussions with NRC staff regarding the integrated review of assessment processes and proposed improvements to the senior management meeting process.

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. -- Discussion of responses from the NRC's Executive Director for Operations to recent ACRS report recommendations.

10:30 - Noon -- Preparation of ACRS reports

Noon - 12:15 p.m. -- Conduct of Committee activities and other items not completed during previous meetings.

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Persons wishing to submit statements on any of these topics may do so by providing a readily reproducible copy to the committee or by mailing it to the Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001.

ACRS meeting schedules are subject to change. Anyone planning to attend should confirm the schedule the day before the meeting by calling (301)415-5024.

ACRS meeting notices, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW.