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Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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NRC ISSUES REPORT ON IMPROVING REACTOR OPERATING EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission task force has issued its report on the agency's programs for evaluating and learning from operating experience at commercial nuclear power reactors.

The task force found the functional portions of NRC's current operational experience programs, such as short- and long-term efforts to identify and address reactor safety issues, are working well. However, several recommendations were developed to improve these programs.

More than 20 specific recommendations for improving the agency's reactor operating experience activities include:

- Develop a clear vision of how the various programs should work together, and update management directives and office procedures accordingly;
- Assign a senior manager as a single point of contact for coordinating operating experience activities, including periodic assessments and program status reports;
- Create and maintain a central clearinghouse of operating experience data, with an accompanying web site; and
- Use operating experience review results, insights and lessons learned to support NRC knowledge transfer and training.

The full document, "Reactor Operating Experience Task Force Report," will be available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS), by entering accession number ML033350063 on the agency's web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> . Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC Public Document Room staff at 301-415-4737 or 800-397-4209, or by sending a message to pdr@nrc.gov via e-mail.

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