

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of change of meeting schedule.

As previously announced, the Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC) will hold its next meeting on November 14–15, 1996. The purpose of the present notice is to provide a revised schedule, reflecting a change in the meeting time for the second day of the meeting. The meeting will now take place from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the 14th and from 7:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on the 15th. The location of the meeting will still be in Room T-10A1, Two White Flint North (TWFN) Building, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

The meeting will be held in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and will be open to public attendance. The NSRRC provides advice to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) on matters of overall management importance in the direction of the NRC's program of nuclear safety research. The main purpose of this meeting will be: (1) to evaluate the value and contributions of the NSRRC in carrying out the NRC's mission and to develop a set of criteria under which the performance of the NSRRC could be evaluated in the future; (2) to discuss the roles of the NSRRC and the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) to determine the areas of common interest of the two Committees; and (3) to discuss potential overlap of on-going activities of the ACRS and NSRRC Committee and coordinate these activities to ensure that areas of joint interest are supportive and complimentary and not duplicative. As time permits, a discussion will be initiated on the core technical competence to be maintained by the NRC's Office of Research staff.

Participants in parts of the discussion will include senior NRC staff and other RES technical staff as necessary.

Members of the public may file written statements regarding any matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members of the public may also make requests to speak at the meeting, but permission to speak will be determined by the Committee chairperson in accordance with procedures established by the Committee. A verbatim transcription will be made of the NSRRC meeting and a copy of the transcript will be placed

in the NRC's Public Document Room in Washington, DC.

Any inquiries regarding this notice or any subsequent changes in the status and schedule of the meeting, may be made to the Designated Federal Officer, Dr. Jose Luis M. Cortez (telephone: 301-415-6596), between 8:15 am and 5:00 pm.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 7th day of November 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Andrew L. Bates,  
*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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### Individual Plant Examination Program: Perspectives on Reactor Safety and Plant Performance, Summary Report, Draft

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Availability of NUREG, draft for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has published a draft of "Individual Plant Examination Program: Perspectives on Reactor Safety and Plant Performance, Summary Report," NUREG-1560, Volume 1, Part 1. This volume summarizes the insights and findings from a review of the Individual Plant Examinations (IPE) submitted to the agency in response to Generic Letter 88-20.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Draft NUREG-1560 (Volume 1, Part 1) is available for inspection and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street N.W. (Lower Level), Washington D.C. 20555-0001. A free single copy of Draft NUREG-1560 (Volume 1, Part 1), to the extent of supply, may be requested by writing to Distribution Series, Printing and Mail Services Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Draft NUREG-1560 provides perspectives gained from the review of the IPEs submitted in response to Generic Letter 88-20. Five major objectives were pursued in documenting perspectives from the reviews:

- (1) The impact of the IPE program on reactor safety—
  - The number and type of vulnerabilities or other safety issues that have been identified, and the related safety enhancements that have been implemented,
  - The impact that the improvements have had on plant safety, and

- Whether any of these improvements have "generic" implications for all or a class of plants.

(2) Plant-specific features and assumptions that play a significant role in the estimation of core damage frequency (CDF) and the analysis of containment performance—

- Important design and operational features that affect CDF and containment performance, with regard to the different reactor and containment types,

• The influence of the IPE methodology and assumptions on the results, with regard to the different reactor and containment types, and

- Significant plant improvements to reduce CDF and increase containment performance, with regard to the different reactor and containment types.

(3) The importance of the operator's role in CDF estimation and containment performance analysis—

- Operator actions that are consistently important in the IPEs,
- Operator actions that are important because of plant-specific characteristics, and

- Influence of modeling assumptions and different methodologies on the results.

(4) IPEs with respect to risk-informed regulation—

- Quality of the IPEs, given the limited scope of the staff's review, compared to a quality probabilistic risk assessment, and therefore, the potential role of the IPEs in risk-informed regulation.

(5) General Perspectives—

- The implication of the IPE results relative to the current risk level of U.S. plants compared with the Commission's Safety Goals,

• The improvements that have been identified as a result of the Station Blackout Rule and analyzed as part of the IPE, and the impact of these improvements on reducing the likelihood of station blackout,

- The results of the IPEs compared with the perspectives gained from NUREG-1150.

Draft NUREG-1560 also documents the staff's preliminary overall conclusions and observations gained from the perspectives of each of the above noted areas. These conclusions and observations address the following:

- Generic Letter 88-20 objective (including improvement of plant safety).
- Regulatory follow-up activities:
  - Plant safety enhancements,
  - Containment performance improvements,
  - Additional review of IPE/PRA,
  - Plants with relatively high CDF or conditional containment failure probability.

- Safety issues:
  - Unresolved safety issue (USI) A-45,
  - Other USIs and generic safety issues (GSIs),
  - Potential GSIs.

- Plant inspection activities.
- Areas for research.
- Commission's Safety Goals.
- Use of NUREG-1560:

- Accident management,
- Maintenance rule,
- Risk-informed regulation,
- Miscellaneous issues.

- Probabilistic risk analysis (PRA).

Draft NUREG-1560 is comprised of two volumes. Volume 1 (Part 1) provides an overall summary of the key perspectives. Volume 2 (Parts 2 through 5) provides a more in-depth discussion of the perspectives summarized in Part 1. Volume 2 of Draft NUREG-1560 will be published and available in approximately 30 days.

The staff recognizes that licensees have updated their IPEs/PRAs which may have an impact on the perspectives discussed in the draft NUREG, and therefore, the preliminary conclusions and observations noted by the staff. Accuracy of the reported results in the IPEs and the appropriateness of the interpretation of these results will also have a potential impact on the staff's perspectives, conclusions and observations. Consequently, this NUREG is published as a draft for comment. All interested parties are encouraged to submit comments.

Mail comments on Draft NUREG-1560 (Volumes 1 and 2) by February 14, 1997 to Mary Drouin, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Mail Stop T-10 E50, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

A 3-day workshop will be held on April 7, 8 & 9, 1997 in Austin, Texas to address comments and answer questions. Information on the workshop location, agenda, registration, etc. will be published with notification of Volume 2, Parts 2 through 5, of Draft NUREG-1560. Indication of workshop attendance by January 15, 1997 is requested so that adequate space for the workshop can be arranged. Workshop attendance information should be directed to Martha Lucero, Sandia National Laboratories, phone (505) 845-9787, fax (505) 844-1392, e-mail [mlucero@sandia.gov](mailto:mlucero@sandia.gov).

Persons other than NRC staff and NRC contractors interested in making a presentation at the workshop should notify Mary Drouin, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, MS T10E50, Washington DC 20555, phone (301) 415-6575, fax (301) 415-5062, e-mail

[etc@nrc.gov](mailto:etc@nrc.gov) or Edward Chow, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, MS T10E50, Washington DC 20555, phone (301) 415-6571, fax (301) 415-5062, e-mail [etc@nrc.gov](mailto:etc@nrc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Edward Chow, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS T10E50, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555, (301) 415-6571.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this eleventh day of October, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Mark Cunningham,

*Chief, Probabilistic Risk Analysis Branch,  
Division of Systems Technology, Office of  
Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

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**Strategic Assessment and  
Rebaselining Extension of Comment  
Period**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is extending the comment period on the second phase of the Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining Initiative until December 2, 1996. The comment period was extended in response to requests from several stakeholders.

This effort was initiated in September 1995, and is being completed in four phases with the goal of finalizing a strategic plan in early CY 1997. The development and implementation of this strategic plan will meet the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993.

The effort is presently in the latter portion of the second phase where the Commission is considering a variety of options for addressing key strategic issues facing the NRC as it prepares to move into the 21st century. The NRC will be seeking the views and comments of its stakeholders—Federal entities (Administration/OMB, Congress, and other agencies), NRC employees and their representatives, Agreement States, non-Agreement States, compliers (e.g., licensees, employees of licensees, industry groups), public interest groups, and the general public—as part of the decision-making process. The Commission will consider stakeholder comments before making final decisions on the key strategic issues.

During the week of September 16, 1996, the issue papers and other documents dealing with the strategic assessment were made available to the

public. Copies of these documents and general information can be obtained electronically from the NRC's Home Page on the World Wide Web (Internet address <http://www.nrc.gov>) and FedWorld at 1-800-303-9672. Paper copies are available by calling NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209.

To help understand their viewpoints, stakeholders are asked to focus on the following in responding to the NRC:

1. What, if any, important considerations may have been omitted from the issue papers?
2. How accurate are the NRC's assumptions and projections for internal and external factors discussed in the issue papers?
3. Do the Commission's preliminary views associated with each issue paper respond to the current environment and challenges?
4. Additionally, the Commission is seeking comments on specific questions identified in the "Preliminary Commission View" section of each issue paper.

In Phase I, a steering committee comprised of senior agency managers, working with an outside consultant, reviewed the NRC's activities in order to understand where the NRC is today, and what needs to be considered in providing options for responding to change. Some of the key objectives identified by the steering committee were: establish a strategic framework under which the NRC will continue to meet its primary responsibility of protecting public health and safety and the environment; provide a sound and well-rounded foundation for the NRC's direction and decision-making for the rest of this decade and into the next century; ensure that the Commission, its staff, Congress, other Government agencies, and the public have a common understanding of what the NRC's strategic goals are; and establish agency performance measures to determine the extent to which strategic or tactical objectives are being achieved.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments via Internet to [SECY@NRC.gov](mailto:SECY@NRC.gov); the World Wide Web at <http://www.nrc.gov>; or via the FedWorld online service at 1-800-303-9672. Comments may also be sent via regular mail to Mr. John C. Hoyle, Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Chief, Docketing and Services Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John W. Craig, Coordinator, Strategic Assessment Task Group at 301-415-3812 (Internet e-mail address: [Internet:Strategic@NRC.gov](mailto:Internet:Strategic@NRC.gov)) or NRC's Public Affairs Office at 415-8200.