

Call for Identification of Proposed Anticipatory Research Projects

NRC research is performed in order to meet a known or anticipated regulatory need. There are two subcategories of research that require separate consideration: confirmatory research and anticipatory research. Confirmatory research assists the agency in responding to license applications that are now before the agency or that are anticipated to come before the agency in the future—usually in the near future. This type of research supports the NRC's regulatory activities and is usually conducted at the request of the offices that are directly responsible for regulatory oversight—the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards.

The NRC also conducts research programs that are more forward looking, research related to evolving technologies or issues that may become important regulatory concerns in the future. Some of this work may also be confirmatory in nature, providing independent assessment of information developed by the nuclear industry, but much of it is what we refer to as "anticipatory" research. These types of programs may not have been requested by our regulatory offices. Rather, this work arises from the examination of industry trends and an effort to try to foresee where the NRC may need information to respond to future regulatory issues. If we wait until these potential issues become actual regulatory concerns, it may be too late to develop the technical information to respond to them in a timely fashion. Examples of anticipatory research that have been highly valuable to the agency include probabilistic risk analysis methods and applications, severe accident source term research, and the evaluation of the effects of aging on plant components.

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research is seeking recommendations or proposals for anticipatory research both within NRC and from external stakeholders that will help NRC prepare for current challenges and regulatory issues anticipated in the future. The submittal should describe the proposed research and focus on the potential use of the research results in current or future regulatory activities.

The NRC is facing many profound challenges. They were discussed in a presentation by Chairman Meserve at the 2001 Working conference of the American Nuclear Society in August (available on the web at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/speeches/2001/>

[s01-020.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/speeches/2001/s01-020.html)) and are summarized below:

- Establish the infrastructure for future licensing and new construction, possibly involving new designs.
- The technical basis needed to support the NRC's regulatory activities in dealing with new reactor technologies and new policy issues must be developed. (This could include fuel performance, behavior of materials at high temperature, and graphite technology, for example)
- Evaluation of new technological approaches to instrumentation and control and to the human-machine interface
 - Reform the regulatory structure, moving to a risk-informed and performance-based paradigm.
- Continue to reform the reactor oversight process
- Develop the bases for additional regulatory improvement
- Develop a risk-informed regulatory approach, with associated acceptance criteria, for new reactor concepts being considered by the industry
 - Re-licensing of existing plants.
- Consideration of aging issues to determine if further research is needed
- Considerations arising from the Sept. 11 tragedy
 - Disposition of spent nuclear fuel.
- Spent fuel pool
- Independent storage on-site
- Long-term storage
 - Maintaining NRC's core competence.
- Staff training and education

At the Nuclear Safety Research Conference, Chairman Meserve spoke on enhancing the NRC's capacity to meet new regulatory challenges and focused on the need to maintain the research infrastructure—the need for technical personnel, experimental facilities, and analytical tools to help provide the technical foundation for regulation. The speech is available on the web at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/speeches/2001/s01-026.html>.

We also solicit your comments on the factors that should be considered when anticipatory research topics are prioritized, both among themselves, and in competition with confirmatory research responding to a stated need of one or the other program offices.

To permit these new topics to be considered in developing future plans, your recommendations should be submitted to Dr. James W. Johnson, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS T-

10-F-12, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, no later than June 1, 2002. Comments also may be submitted by e-mail to jwj@nrc.gov.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to: Dr. James W. Johnson, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS T-10 F-12, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Comments may be hand delivered to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. James W. Johnson, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, MS T-10 F-12, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6802.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of February, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ashok C. Thadani,
Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 02-3898 Filed 2-15-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on March 6, 2002, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Wednesday, March 6, 2002—9:00 a.m.—12:00 Noon

The Subcommittee will discuss proposed ACRS activities and related matters. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the

concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Designated Federal Official named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, the scheduling of sessions open to the public, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements, and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Official, Sam Duraiswamy (telephone: 301/415-7364) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EST). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule that may have occurred.

Dated: February 11, 2002.

Sher Bahadur,

Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW.

[FR Doc. 02-3902 Filed 2-15-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena will hold a meeting on March 6, 2002, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

Portions of the meeting may be closed to public attendance to discuss General Electric proprietary information per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Wednesday, March 6, 2002—1:00 p.m. Until the Conclusion of Business

The Subcommittee will continue its review of the GE Nuclear Energy Topical Report, NEDC-33004P, Revision 1, "Constant Pressure Power Uprate" and the associated NRC staff's safety evaluation. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate

proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman. Written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Designated Federal Official named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, General Electric Nuclear Energy, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, the scheduling of sessions open to the public, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, and the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor, can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Official, Mr. Paul A. Boehnert (telephone 301-415-8065) between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda that may have occurred.

Dated: February 11, 2002.

Sher Bahadur,

Associate Director for Technical Support.

[FR Doc. 02-3903 Filed 2-15-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Acting Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2002.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of February 18, 2002

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

1:55 p.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (If needed)

2:00 p.m.

Meeting with the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) (Public Meeting) (Contact: Angela Williamson, 301-415-5030)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

Week of February 25, 2002—Tentative

Friday, March 1, 2002

9:30 a.m.

Briefing on Status of Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Lars Solander, 301-415-6080)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

Week of March 4, 2002—Tentative

Monday, March 4, 2002

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on Status of Nuclear Waste Safety (Public Meeting) (Contact: Claudia Seelig, 301-415-7243)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

Week of March 11, 2002—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of March 11, 2002.

Week of March 18, 2002—Tentative

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

9:30 a.m.

Briefing on Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: James Johnson, 301-415-6802)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov

Week of March 20, 2002—Tentative

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

9:25 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (If needed)

9:30 a.m.

Meeting with Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) (Public Meeting) (Contact: John Larkins, 301-415-7360)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov