

Dated: September 21, 1999.

**Kenneth M. Becker,**

*Executive Director.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### NRC Workshop on the NRC's Inspection Program for Decommissioning Power Reactors

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Workshop and Meeting with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to Discuss the Agency's Inspection of Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants.

**SUMMARY:** On October 13, 1999, at 7:00 p.m., the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct a Public Workshop at the Ramada Inn, in Meriden, CT, to discuss the Agency's program for its inspection of decommissioning nuclear power plants. Specifically, the staff plans to provide a short presentation on the current inspection program for reactor facilities that are decommissioning, summarize the findings of the inspection program since 1997, and discuss proposed changes to the current program. Following this presentation, a forum will be provided for the public, the nuclear industry, and other regulatory agencies to discuss and inform the NRC staff of any questions or concerns regarding the Agency's inspection of permanently shutdown nuclear power plants.

On October 14, 1999, NEI has been invited to present to the NRC staff, its assessment of the NRC's inspection of decommissioning power reactors. This meeting will be open for public observation and will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, Meriden, CT.

The insights gained from the workshop and meeting will be evaluated by the staff and factored into the Agency's lessons learned and risk insights that will be used to revise and improve the procedures used to inspect permanently shutdown reactor plants. NRC management, project managers, and specialist inspectors will be in attendance at the workshop and meeting to respond individually or in concert to questions or concerns. The NRC will be represented by the NRC Regional Offices and the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 28, 1996, the Commission amended the

regulations on the requirements that lead to the termination of an operating license for nuclear power reactors (FR 39278, July 29, 1996). These amended regulations were based on, in part, an Agency position that the degree of regulatory oversight required for a nuclear power reactor during its decommissioning stage is considerably less than that required for the facility during its operating stage.

NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2561, "Decommissioning Inspection Program," was completely revised and issued on August 8, 1997, to incorporate lessons learned from the inspection of decommissioning power plants and to, in part, implement the August 28, 1996, amended regulations, as described above. The manual chapter was written to cover all phases of decommissioning whether the facility was placed in long-term safe storage (SAFSTOR) or it was being actively decontaminated and dismantled (DECON) to support radiological release of the site and license termination. To effectively inspect all decommissioning power plants regardless of the chosen decommissioning option, a core inspection program was developed to evaluate the key functional areas of: (1) Facility management and control (organization, cost controls, safety reviews, modifications, audits, self-assessment, corrective actions, and status reviews); (2) decommissioning support activities (maintenance, surveillance, cold weather preparations, physical security, and independent spent fuel storage facilities); (3) spent fuel safety (wet and dry spent fuel storage and fuel handling); and (4) radiological safety (occupational, transportation, and radioactive waste treatment). Further, the level of inspection effort (i.e., hours of direct inspection) required by the manual chapter was scaled or graduated to a number of considerations including licensee performance, the conduct of major decommissioning activities, and the level of contamination or radiation involved in particular decommissioning activities. Thus, IMC 2561 is risk-informed and the level of NRC inspection at a permanently shutdown unit is commensurate with the status of facility decommissioning and safety.

When the 1997 revision of IMC 2561 was issued, the staff planned to review and revise the IMC and associated inspection procedures (IPs) following a period of implementation by the NRC Regional Offices. This was to (1) Ensure that the lessons learned from the four most recently shutdown operating power reactors (Haddam Neck, Millstone Unit 1, Big Rock Point, and

Maine Yankee) would be factored into the IMC and IPs, and (2) allow the staff another opportunity to factor in additional risk insights gained from rulemaking activities and staff analysis of spent fuel accidents, emergency preparedness, and safeguards. This public meeting is a way the public can influence the staff's revision of the decommissioning power reactor inspection program.

**DATES:** October 13 and 14, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Ramada Plaza Hotel, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450, (203) 238-2380

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul W. Harris, Project Manager, Decommissioning Section, Project Directorate IV and Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, at (301) 415-1169 or by e-mail at PWH1@NRC.gov. For public inspection of NRC IMC 2561, "Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program," and its associated NRC IPs, see the NRC's Website at: <http://www.nrc.gov> under "Reference Library," "NRC Inspection Manual," and then "Manual Chapter" or "Inspection Procedure."

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Michael T. Masnik,**

*Section Chief, Decommissioning Section, Project Directorate IV and Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 113th meeting on October 12-13, 1999, at the Alexis Park Resort, 375 East Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

*Tuesday, October 12, 1999—8:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.*

A. *The Role of Safety Assessment in the Yucca Mountain Regulatory Process*—The Committee will hold a facilitated working group to explore the role of risk assessment in the licensing of a high-level waste repository. Participation is expected from representatives of the Nuclear