

### § 7.1 Policy.

The regulations in this part define the policies and procedures to be followed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the establishment, utilization, and termination of advisory committees. In general, it is the policy of the Commission that—

(a) Except where there is express legal authority to the contrary, the function of NRC advisory committees shall be advisory only.

(b) Each NRC advisory committee shall function in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and this part.

(c) The number of NRC advisory committees shall be kept to the minimum necessary, and the number of members of each NRC advisory committee shall be limited to the fewest necessary to accomplish committee objectives.

(d) An NRC advisory committee shall be established only when establishment of the committee is required by law or when the Commission determines that the committee is essential to the conduct of NRC business. In making such a determination, the Commission shall consider whether committee deliberations will result in a significant contribution to the creation, amendment, or elimination of regulations, guidelines, or rules affecting NRC business; whether the information to be obtained is available through another source within the Federal Government; whether the committee will make recommendations resulting in significant improvements in service or reductions in cost; or whether the committee's recommendations will provide an important additional perspective or viewpoint relating to NRC's mission.

(e) Except where otherwise required by law, an NRC advisory committee shall be terminated whenever the stated objectives of the committee have been accomplished, the subject matter or work of the committee has become obsolete, the committee's main functions have been assumed by another entity within the Federal Government, or the cost of operating the committee has become excessive in relation to the benefits accruing to the Federal Government from its activities.

(f) NRC advisory committees shall be balanced in their membership in terms

of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed.

(g) The Congress shall be kept informed of the number, purpose, membership, activities, and cost of NRC advisory committees.

(h) NRC advisory committee meetings shall be open to the public, except where closure is determined to be justified under § 7.15.

### § 7.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Act* means the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

(b) *Administrator* means the Administrator of General Services.

(c)(1) *Advisory committee* means any committee, board, commission, council, conference, panel, task force, or similar group, or any subcommittee or other subgroup thereof, that is established by statute for the purpose of providing advice or recommendations on issues of policy to an official, branch, or agency of the Federal Government, or that is established or utilized by the President or any agency official to obtain advice or recommendations on issues or policies that fall within the scope of his or her responsibilities; except that the term "advisory committee" shall not include the groups listed in paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(2) For purposes of the definition of "advisory committee" in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, a group shall be considered to be "utilized by the President or any agency official to obtain advice or recommendations on issues or policies that fall within the scope of his or her responsibilities" if (i) the group is composed in whole or in part of other than full-time officers or employees of the Federal Government, (ii) the group has an established existence outside the agency seeking the advice, (iii) the group is a preferred source from which to obtain advice or recommendations on a specific issue or policy within the scope of the President's or agency official's responsibilities, and (iv) such advice or recommendations are obtained in the same manner as advice or recommendations obtained from established advisory committees.