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NRC TO HOLD CHICAGO MEETING ON CONTROL OF SOLID MATERIALS FROM LICENSED FACILITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting December 7-8 in Chicago to obtain public comment on issues associated with the control of solid materials having very small amounts of residual radioactivity originating at licensed facilities.

The agency is considering whether to revise its regulations in Part 20 of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish overall standards for control of these materials. The NRC currently evaluates licensee requests for release of solid materials on a case-by-case basis.

A document entitled "Issues Related to Release of Solid Materials from Licensed Facilities" was issued June 30 to encourage public discussion of the alternatives involved before deciding whether to start a formal rulemaking process.

The NRC is also seeking comment on a draft report that provides a technical basis for any potential rulemaking involving control of solid material. The document is entitled "Radiological Assessment for Clearance of Equipment and Material from Nuclear Facilities," (NUREG-1640).

Both the issues paper and NUREG-1640 are available on the internet at http://www.nrc.gov/NMSS/IMNS/controlsolids.html

These documents may also be obtained via e-mail, to Distribution@nrc.gov, by fax to: 301-415-2289, or by writing to the Reproduction and Distribution Services Section, OCIO, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001.

The meeting will be held at the Palmer House Hilton, at 17 East Monroe Street, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day.

The meeting in Chicago is the fourth of a series of meetings planned on this subject - others were held in San Francisco, Atlanta, and in Rockville, Maryland.

Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting or to submit written comments on the issues paper by December 22 to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the internet, at the aforementioned web page address.