



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-0001 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. 02-005

January 14, 2002

NRC SCHEDULES THREE-DAY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS REGULATORY ISSUES WITH NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Advanced registration is now available for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 14th Annual Regulatory Information Conference, to be held March 5 - 7, at the Capital Hilton Hotel, 16th and K Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The conference, sponsored by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, will focus on major issues and initiatives associated with the regulation of commercial nuclear power plants. The NRC's revised oversight process, risk-informed regulations, license renewal and decommissioning are among the topics slated for discussion. The agenda for the conference was developed using suggestions provided by attendees at last year's meeting as well as suggestions invited by NRC on its Internet web site.

Additional information is available through the NRC's conference Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/regs-guides-comm/ric/2002/index.html>. The conference is open to the public, but advanced registration is suggested.

William D. Travers, Executive Director for Operations and Samuel J. Collins, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, will open the conference on Tuesday, March 5, at 1 p.m., and Chairman Richard A. Meserve will deliver the keynote speech. Breakout sessions will follow on safeguards/security issues, new reactor licensing, decommissioning, the allegations process, and safety conscious work environments. Commissioner Nils J. Diaz will lead a plenary session in the afternoon.

On Wednesday, the conference will begin at 8 a.m. with issue-specific breakout sessions on the revised oversight process, circumferential cracking of control rod drives, nuclear waste, power uprates, risk-informed regulation technical requirements, international issues and perspectives, and public confidence and communications. Commissioner Greta Joy Dicus will conduct a plenary session before lunch. Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, Jr. will conduct a plenary session after lunch.

The Wednesday post-luncheon schedule will include Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield addressing the conferees in a plenary session. Afternoon breakout sessions will follow on emergent technical and business topics, license renewal, and technical specifications initiatives.

The Thursday session will begin at 8 a.m. with Mr. Collins scheduled to speak about regulatory trends and initiatives for improving nuclear reactor safety. This will be followed by separate regional breakout sessions. A feedback plenary session will be held prior to adjournment.

A complete agenda will be posted to the RIC web site when finalized.

###