

- Identify public concerns;
- Ensure that concerns are identified early and are properly studied;
- Identify alternatives that will be examined;
- Identify significant issues that need to be analyzed; and
- Eliminate unimportant issues.

The scoping meetings will begin with NRC staff providing a description of NRC's role and mission followed by a brief overview of NRC's environmental review process and goals of the scoping meeting. The bulk of the meeting will be allotted for attendees to make oral comments.

5.0 Scoping Comments

Written comments should be mailed to the address listed above in the **ADDRESSES** section. Scoping comments may also be submitted electronically via e-mail to URLGEIS@nrc.gov. The NRC staff will prepare a scoping summary report in which it will summarize public comments. The NRC will make the scoping summary report and project-related materials available for public review through its electronic reading room: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Further, an NRC Web site will be established in the near future to keep the public abreast of the current schedule and to post important documents.

6.0 The NEPA Process

The GEIS will be prepared according to NEPA and NRC's NEPA implementing regulations contained in 10 CFR part 51.

After the scoping process is complete, the NRC will prepare a draft GEIS. The draft GEIS is scheduled to be published by April 2008. A 45-day comment period on the draft GEIS is planned, and a public meeting(s) to receive comments will be held approximately three weeks after publication of the draft GEIS. Availability of the draft GEIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public meeting will be announced in the **Federal Register**, on NRC's Web page, and in the local news media. The final GEIS is expected to be published in January 2009 and will incorporate, as appropriate, public comments received on the draft GEIS.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 22nd day of August, 2007.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Gregory Suber,

Branch Chief, Environmental Review Branch, Environmental Protection and Performance Assessment Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

U.S. Digital Instrumentation and Control and Human-Machine Interface Workshop

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Opportunity to provide input concerning digital instrumentation and control and human-machine interface test and research in the United States.

SUMMARY: The increasing use of digital instrumentation and controls, and the growing prevalence of human interactions with such systems, in nuclear generating and fuel cycle facilities have introduced new regulatory challenges along with the potential benefit of improved plant safety. Currently, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) addresses these challenges by analyzing their scope, impact, and potential adverse plant interactions, and then conducting research on each safety-related topical issue identified through this analysis. Often, such analyses and research are performed under contracts that the NRC establishes with commercial entities, national laboratories, universities, and international research facilities. However, there may be advantages to alternative approaches such as establishing a single, integrated test facility with expertise in the areas of digital instrumentation and controls and human-machine interfaces (DIC&HMI).

The NRC is conducting public workshops to review the current and future technical issues in the area of digital instrumentation and control and human-machine interface (I&C and HMI), to identify the capabilities that a facility or facilities would need to have to support their resolution. The workshop will review the capabilities of current facilities and consider lessons learned from their operation. Based on this information a set of options will be developed. Toward that end, the NRC invites stakeholders including those with existing capabilities, as well as others who may be interested in participating (such as national

laboratories, universities, other Federal agencies, research and development centers, and vendors), to participate in the workshops. The workshops will seek to develop a consensus in the technical community regarding a set of overarching principles that should be met to ensure the success of any conceptual approaches discussed. Options may include relying on current facilities; upgrading current facilities; or developing a single, integrated facility. In addition, it is necessary to determine the number of organizations within the community that are interested in each option.

Interested parties should note that the staff is working with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, to develop additional information on experiences that other similar facilities have had, in order to learn from their successes and challenges.

DISCUSSION: The NRC will hold two workshops to engage potentially interested stakeholders. The first workshop will be held on September 6–7, 2007, at the Clarion Hotel at Atlanta International Airport, which is located at 5010 Old National Highway in Atlanta, Georgia. This initial workshop will review, at a conceptual level the current and future technical issues in the area of digital instrumentation and control and human-machine interface (I&C and HMI) and will identify the capabilities that a facility or facilities would need to have to support their resolution. The workshop will review the capabilities of current facilities and consider lessons learned from their operation. Based on this information the workshop will develop a set of options for establishing additional capabilities, if needed, or ways to integrate current capabilities in a manner that creates synergies and efficiencies to support current and future needs of the technical community in the digital I&C and HMI areas.

The second workshop will be held on September 11, 2007, at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Executive Meeting Center, which is located at 1750 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Maryland. This workshop will use information gathered at the Atlanta workshop regarding the additional capabilities (if any) that the community requires to address current and future Digital Instrumentation and Control (I&C) and Human Machine Interface (HMI) issues and the facility options available to perform this work. The workshop will discuss at a conceptual level how each of the facility options could be managed. These management issues include potential participants, funding arrangements, conflict of

interest (COI) considerations, and siting. Additional information about both workshops can be obtained at <http://nrc-test-facility.pnl.gov>.

Additionally, to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of these workshops, the NRC invites interested stakeholders to provide comments in the following areas:

(1) Which potential participants might be interested in joint participation, collaboration, and funding of such a facility, and to what extent might this include participants outside the nuclear industry?

(2) If the nuclear industry participates, how could conflict-of-interest issues be addressed?

(3) Do similar facilities currently exist and, if so, what can be learned from their successes and challenges?

(4) What siting options would be most viable (e.g., universities where integration with graduate studies might be encouraged, national laboratories, etc.), considering both cost and ease of technical information exchange?

(5) To what extent could such a facility be designed to be reconfigurable to the expected variety of plant control room and HMI designs?

(6) To what extent could such a facility be designed to also be used as an advanced reactor training simulator for NRC staff?

(7) What impediments, if any, might exist to limit information sharing among participants and external stakeholders?

(8) What could be the benefits, or adverse impacts, of existing and established international collaborative activities in this area?

(9) What could be the NRC's legal, budgetary, and oversight role?

(10) Would stakeholders potentially be interested in the establishment of a facility that would serve as a national technical center of excellence to support a wide range of agencies and industries that have needs and interests in the rapidly advancing areas of instrumentation and controls, digital safety systems, and human-machine interfaces?

The workshop results and public comments received, along with other information developed as a result of the staff's discussions with interested stakeholders, will be used to support NRC decision making on this subject.

AVAILABILITY AND DATES: Additional information is available through the NRC Test Facility Working Group Web page, at <http://nrc-test-facility.pnl.gov>. Comments would be most helpful if received by September 30, 2007.

COMMENT PROCEDURES: The NRC staff encourages and welcomes

stakeholder participation in the workshops, as well as submittal of related comments and suggestions from interested parties. Personal information, such as your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, etc., will not be removed from your submission.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Mail comments to Leonard Bond, Ph.D, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, Mail Stop K5-26, Richland, WA 99352.

- Provide comments on-line at <http://nrc-test-facility.pnl.gov>.

- E-mail comments to Leonard.Bond@pnl.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION: General questions regarding this study or the related workshops should be addressed to Steven A. Arndt at (301) 415-6502 or by e-mail to SAA@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17 day of August, 2007.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brian W. Sheron, Director,

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-358]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding China—Certain Measures Granting Refunds, Reductions or Exemptions From Taxes and Other Payments

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on July 12, 2007, in accordance with the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO Agreement), the United States requested the establishment of a dispute settlement panel regarding certain Chinese measures granting refunds, reductions or exemptions to enterprises from taxes otherwise due the government. That request may be found at www.wto.org contained in a document designated as WT/DS358/13. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the consultations, comments should be submitted on or before October 5, 2007

to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) electronically, to FR0507@ustr.eop.gov, with "China Prohibited Subsidies (DS358)" in the subject line, or (ii) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640, with a confirmation copy sent electronically to the electronic mail address above, in accordance with the requirements for submission set out below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arun Venkataraman, Associate General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC., (202) 395-5694.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), USTR is providing notice that the United States has requested the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel pursuant to the WTO *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU"). Such panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within nine months after it is established, which is requested to be on August 31, 2007.

Major Issues Raised by the United States

China maintains measures that provide refunds, reductions, or exemptions to enterprises in China from taxes otherwise due the government on the condition that those enterprises purchase domestic over imported goods. The United States believes that, as such, these measures are inconsistent with China's obligations under Article 3.1(b) and 3.2 of the *Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures* ("SCM Agreement"). Furthermore, because they condition advantages on an enterprise's purchase of domestic over imported equipment, these measures appear to accord imported products treatment less favorable than that accorded "like" domestic products, inconsistent with Article III:4 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* and Article 2.1 and Annex 1, paragraph 1(a), of the *Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures*. For the same reasons, these measures appear not to comply with China's obligations under paragraphs 7.2-7.3 and 10.3 of Part I of its Protocol of Accession and paragraph 1.2 of Part I of its Protocol of Accession (to the extent that it incorporates paragraph 203 of the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China).