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Subject: NRC INTRODUCES NEW WEB-BASED ACCESS TO PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS IN ADAMS

On January 24, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will release a new search and retrieval capability, which will allow users to access publicly available documents in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) directly from the NRC's Web site. This new Web-based interface is a significant step in the NRC's electronic government (E-gov) strategy which will simplify the process of searching for and accessing documents in the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) library. This Web-based interface for accessing documents in the PARS library has been successfully tested by the ADAMS Public User Group. A link to the interface will be available to the general public and NRC staff through the NRC's external home page on January 24, 2003.

The new Web-based search and retrieval interface offers the following features:

- "Relevancy ranking" locates the "best" (most relevant) documents and brings them to the top of the list of your search results.
- "Natural language queries" eliminate the need for users to master structured search languages to find needed information.
- Highlighting identifies key words or phrases in the text of a document.
- A detailed HELP screen simplifies use of the Web-based search and retrieval interface.
- An "Already Seen" indicator identifies documents that the user has already viewed in the listed search results.
- The "More Like" search allows users to refine and optimize a search by narrowing the list of matching documents to those that are similar to an especially relevant document found in the initial search results.

In addition to the basic ability to search for documents containing a text phrase, the interface enables users to perform more advanced searches using three kinds of queries:

- A "concept search" expands the user-specified search terms to include related terms using English-language dictionaries and thesauri instead of limiting the search to exact matches for words in the query. This allows the Web-based interface to find a far more

complete set of responses than would otherwise be expected in a traditional boolean search. The basic search mode is a concept search, which puts an implied "or" between terms unless they are enclosed in quotes.

- A "pattern search" expands the user-specified search terms to include words that are spelled similarly, and then matches those terms against documents in ADAMS. This type of search is useful when the search terms include words with difficult or variant spellings or "dirty" text produced by optical character recognition.
- A "boolean search" matches the exact user-specified search terms against the documents in the ADAMS library. This is a traditional method of searching for documents and can be used with the boolean operators ("AND," "OR," "NOT," among others) in the search statement to control matching. The boolean mode puts an implied "and" between terms, unless the user specifies another operator, such as "or."

For more information about the Web-based search and retrieval interface, see the ADAMS page on the NRC's external Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> or call the Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or e-mail pdr@nrc.gov.

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