



# NRC NEWS

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## **NRC ANNOUNCES TRANSITION SCHEDULE FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MERGER**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a transition schedule for the planned merger of its Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste & Materials (ACNW&M) into the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), with the merger to be completed by the end of May.

The ACNW&M will continue to meet until that time in order to complete work already on its agenda. That work includes several letter reports to the Commission on issues related to the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain; the health effects of low radiation doses; the NRC staff's strategic assessment of low-level waste regulation; use of burn-up credit in transportation of spent nuclear fuel; and the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection on collective dose estimates. The committee will also complete a white paper on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and low-level waste disposal.

“With the committee’s work coming to an end, the time is right to use the members’ expertise in health physics and other specialties in areas where they will be in increasing demand – namely in licensing of new reactors and other nuclear facilities,” said Dr. Michael Ryan, chairman of the ACNW&M.

Once the ACNW&M completes its work in May, the committee’s members will be offered positions as consultants to the ACRS. The ACRS has a current vacancy, which it intends to fill with an expert in nuclear materials and radiation protection. That new member will serve as a subcommittee chairman in charge of issues formerly covered by the ACNW&M.

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