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**Proposed Agency Policy and
Procedures for Differing Professional
Opinions; Request for Comments**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has developed a statement of policy on differing professional opinions and the general procedures for implementing this policy within the agency. The NRC requests comments upon the proposed policy and the procedures, and also any additional recommendations or experiences regarding policy objectives, procedures, or other provisions that the Commission should consider before proceeding to adopt the proposed policy and procedures.

The proposed statement of policy clarifies the responsibilities of both NRC employees and NRC management regarding the expression and resolution of differing professional opinions. Moreover, the policy assures all employees the opportunity to have differing professional opinions heard and considered by NRC management free from retaliation in any form.

The proposed system for implementing this policy on differing professional opinions within the agency is described in a set of thirteen detailed procedures. These procedures provide, for example, alternate channels for the submission of differing professional opinions, accountability for all actions taken on a differing professional opinion, resolution of all differing professional opinions submitted in accordance with these procedures, and assurance against retaliation for the submission of a differing professional opinion. Also included are provisions for follow-up and evaluation of these procedures to ensure that implementation accomplishes the stated objectives and to recommend changes, as appropriate.

Single copies of the proposed policy and procedures can be obtained by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Management and Program Analysis, Washington, D.C. 20555. In addition, a single copy of the proposed policy and procedures is available, and may be inspected and copied, in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Copies of comments received are also available for inspection at the Washington, D.C.

Public Document Room.

Persons with questions may call Dr. Harry J. Waters in the Office of Management and Program Analysis, telephone 301-492-7721.

Written comments or questions should be addressed to the Director, Office of Management and Program Analysis, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Comments must be received by December 10, 1979.