



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON POTENTIAL POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO NUCLEAR PLANT GROUNDWATER PROTECTION OCT. 4 IN ROCKVILLE, MD.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will host a public workshop Monday, Oct. 4, to hear from a variety of government, industry, academic and public experts to discuss potential policy issues and changes regarding NRC regulation of radioactive groundwater contamination at nuclear power plants.

“We want to hear from external stakeholders before we determine whether there are policy changes needed for groundwater protection,” said Marty Virgilio, Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs. “Although the June 2010 Groundwater Task Force review determined the NRC is meeting its safety mission, we want to ensure that we have identified any policy issues that should be brought before the Commission.”

Topics to be discussed at this workshop include: reassessing NRC’s regulatory framework, maintaining barriers as designed to confine licensed material, creating more reliable NRC responses and strengthening public trust.

Recent incidents at several nuclear plants involving groundwater contamination have prompted plant owners and the NRC to look at the sources of the contamination. While the actions in each case have identified the sources and ensured that licensees correct problems, they have prompted the NRC to examine the adequacy of the actions and the agency’s regulatory framework.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room at the NRC Headquarters at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. The meeting will be webcast and available by teleconference. The webcast can be viewed at the time of the meeting at: <http://video.nrc.gov/live/> and the teleconference dial-in number is 800-369-2179 and the passcode is 31690. All other questions should be directed to Barry Miller by email at Barry.Miller@nrc.gov or by phone at 301-415-4117.

The meeting format will include a roundtable discussion by invited experts in an open forum. Each roundtable participant will have the opportunity to make a short presentation in their area of expertise followed by a facilitated open discussion.

The workshop will serve as a forum for members of the public to provide oral comments. Written comments will be accepted through Oct. 15. They may be submitted via the federal rulemaking website at www.Regulations.gov or by mail. All written comments should reference Docket ID NRC-2010-0302 and can be submitted to Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch (RADB), Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by fax to RADB at (301) 492-3446.

The document and public meeting agenda are available at this link: <http://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/idmws/ViewDocByAccession.asp?AccessionNumber=ML102460197>. For more information about groundwater issues and documents visit the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/grndwtr-contam-tritium.html>.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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