



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO DISCUSS FUKUSHIMA-RELATED ORDER ON CONTAINMENT VENTS MAY 2 IN ROCKVILLE, MD

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will meet with interested groups and members of the public on Wednesday, May 2, in Rockville, Md., to discuss how some U.S. nuclear power plants will implement an Order regarding systems to vent pressure from reactor containment buildings.

The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to noon EDT in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at the NRC Headquarters complex, 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville. Members of the public can also participate in the meeting via teleconference at 800-857-9802, passcode 38283, as well as via webinar.

Anyone interested in attending in person or via phone is strongly encouraged to contact Robert Fretz ahead of time at 301-415-1980 or robert.fretz@nrc.gov; he also has webinar log-in information.

The meeting will discuss the staff's interim guidance for meeting the requirements of the Order, which applies to U.S. boiling-water reactors with "Mark I" and "Mark II" containment designs. The Order requires Mark I plants to ensure their venting systems are hardened and reliable; Mark II plants must install hardened reliable vents. The meeting will also discuss the concept of adding filters to the vents.

A task force of senior NRC officials recommended issuing the Order after concluding reliable hardened vents would allow Mark I and II containments to more effectively and safely release excessive containment pressure after a serious accident. The task force based the recommendation on the lessons learned from events at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The Commission approved the task force recommendation and the NRC issued the Order on March 12.

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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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