



# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## NRC'S PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM MARKS 50 YEARS OF ANSWERING PUBLIC'S QUERIES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Public Document Room (PDR) is celebrating 50 years of providing information to the public about the licensing and regulation of radioactive materials.

The PDR, which handled 7,423 requests for information in fiscal year 2005, has given the American public a window into the operations of the Atomic Energy Commission and the NRC. The staff of professional librarians provides fast and accurate responses to public inquiries as part of the agency's mission as an open and transparent regulator.

"For 50 years, the PDR has carried out its mission of providing public access to agency information, making it one of the agency's longest, continuously operating functional units," said NRC Chairman Nils J. Diaz. "As technology has evolved from typewriters and carbon paper to personal computers and the Internet, the agency and the PDR have kept abreast of technology to ensure the broadest possible public access. Today, NRC documents are even more widely available through the World Wide Web and a Web-based version of ADAMS, the agency's electronic document management system."

The PDR first opened its doors Feb. 6, 1956, in the AEC's headquarters at 1717 H Street NW in downtown Washington, D.C. That year, the AEC issued the first construction permits for large power reactors (Indian Point and Dresden), worked closely with the State Department in the 82-nation conference that created the International Atomic Energy Agency, and participated in the first International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

Now located in the One White Flint Building of the NRC's headquarters campus in Rockville, Md., the PDR handles thousands of requests each year from NRC staff, industry, interest groups and the general public. The PDR staff assists the public by identifying, retrieving, organizing and evaluating documents and other resources in storage systems ranging from archaic to state-of-the-art, including paper, microfiche and electronic databases such as the agency's ADAMS document management system and the NRC Web site.

The NRC's Public Document Room is open Monday - Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time, with telephone service from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Queries may be submitted by telephone to (301) 415-4737 or (800) 397-4209, or by e-mail to [PDR@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR@nrc.gov).

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