

PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 20, 2000

Dear Colleague:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) is conducting an evaluation to enhance stakeholder participation in the Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSM) and in our research process. We define stakeholders as groups or individuals who are affected by or who affect NRC research programs. I am writing to ask you to assist us in this important evaluation.

The WRSM is an international research meeting which attracts participants from over 20 countries as well as the United States. It has been held annually for the past twenty-seven years and provides an overview of the research being conducted by RES. It also provides an opportunity for dialogue between NRC staff and various stakeholder groups on current and future safety research and needs related to commercial nuclear power, waste disposal and use of nuclear materials. We want to increase stakeholder participation in the WRSM and are therefore interested to get your views on how to improve that participation. Specifically, what would be of interest to you and your organization that would encourage you to participate in future WRSM meetings? In addition, we would like to get your views on how to generally improve stakeholder involvement in the research process. That is, what methods should we consider in giving stakeholders an opportunity to be informed about and comment on the identification, development, and results of research?

Your feedback is very important to us. **We would appreciate your completing the enclosed, confidential questionnaire.** We estimate it will take **10-15 minutes** to fill out the form. Your input will be collected and analyzed by contractor personnel who are conducting this evaluation for RES. No comments will be attributed to any individual, and all results will be reported to the NRC in the aggregate by stakeholder group. If you believe that other individuals in your organization should have an opportunity to provide feedback to the RES via this questionnaire, please call Leila Peterson (see below) with their name(s) and she will provide them with a questionnaire.

Please call Leila Peterson of ATL, International at (301) 515-6790 with any questions you might have. Questionnaires can be faxed to (301) 972-6904 or mailed to **ATL, International in the self-addressed, stamped envelope by February 10, 2000.**

Thank you very much for participating in this evaluation!

Sincerely,

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure: As stated

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PDR

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

OMB # 3150-0196

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)

Your input on the effectiveness of the Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSM) and stakeholder involvement in the research process is very important to us. We are primarily interested in learning how we can optimally engage stakeholders in the research process, and increase stakeholder participation in and improve the research dialogue at the WRSM.

Please do not be put off by the length of the questionnaire; most of the questions are multiple choice and can be answered quickly. Your answers will be confidential and will not be attributed to any individual by name. All answers will be presented in the aggregate by stakeholder group.

Please mail your completed questionnaire in the enclosed pre-addressed postage-paid envelope or fax it to (301) 972-6904 by February 10, 2000. If you have any questions, please call Leila Peterson at ATL, International at (301) 515-6790. Thank you for participating.

1. To which stakeholder group do you belong?

- Commercial nuclear industry-related group. Please specify: Utility/Nuclear Power Plant, Nuclear Materials User, Research, Industry Organization/Association, Other group (please specify type, not name, of group), Public Interest Group, Other government agency (please specify agency), NRC staff (please specify office), Other (please specify)

2. Have you attended the WRSM in the past?

- Yes (If you answered YES, please go to QUESTION #6) No (If you answered NO, please go to QUESTION #3)

3. How familiar are you with the WRSM?

- I never heard of it, I know of it through (please check) colleagues, advertisements, internet, received announcement, other (please specify)

4. Have other members of your organization attended the WRSM in the past three years? Yes No Don't Know

5. The WRSM is an international research meeting focused on current and future issues concerning the safe operation of commercial nuclear power and attracts participants from over 20 countries as well as the United States. The annual meeting provides an overview the research being conducted by the NRC as well as an opportunity for dialogue between NRC staff and various stakeholder groups about NRC's current research and future research needs. Based on this information, what statement best describes your level of interest in the WRSM?

Very Interested 1 2 Average 3 4 No Interest 5

If you've NEVER attended the WRSM, please go to QUESTION #18.

6. Did you attend the October 1999 WRSM? Yes No

Please check which past meetings of the WRSM you've attended. Please give an approximation if you do not recall the specific year.

- 26th WRSM (1998), 25th WRSM (1997), 24th WRSM (1996), 23rd WRSM (1995), 22nd WRSM (1994), attended prior to 1994

7. The overall objective of the WRSM is "to promote a dialogue with stakeholders in commercial nuclear applications on regulatory research that is developing and confirming technical bases for regulatory outcomes." Please check below how effective the WRSM is in promoting this dialogue with stakeholders.

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

8. How effective is the WRSM in presenting the NRC's research to stakeholders?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

9. How effective is the WRSM in providing opportunities for NRC research personnel and representatives from industry and other stakeholders to interact?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

10. How effective is the WRSM in providing an opportunity for professional networking?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

11. How effective is the WRSM in providing stakeholders an opportunity to give feedback on NRC's research?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

12. How effective is the WRSM in promoting dialogue about how robust research must be to support regulatory products and decisions?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

13. How effective is the WRSM in identifying new or open research questions for follow-up discussions with stakeholders?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

14. How effective are the WRSM research presentations in making the connection between research and regulatory products and decisions?

Very Effective Effective Average Somewhat Effective Not Effective

Comment? _____

15. If you didn't attend WRSM '99, which of the following best captures the reason(s) you did not attend:

- Haven't attended in a couple of years
- Someone else in my organization attended
- Budget reasons
- Didn't hear about it in time
- Scheduling conflict
- Not interested in the topics this year
- Other (please specify) _____

16. Which stakeholder groups are generally under-represented at WRSM and in your view should have increased attendance to enhance the research dialogue? (Check all that apply)

- Commercial nuclear industry please check:
 - Utility/Nuclear Power Plant
 - Nuclear Materials Users
 - Research
 - Industry Organization/Association
 - Other group (please specify type of group) _____
- Public Interest Group
- International
- Contractors
- Other government agency personnel (specify agency) _____
- NRC staff (please specify office) _____
- Other (please specify) _____

17. How can the NRC most improve the value of the WRSM? Please review the following suggested areas of improvement and rate them in terms of their importance to you and your organization from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

	Most Important			Least Important	
a. Provide more opportunity for discussion/dialogue	1	2	3	4	5
b. Better define the purpose of the meeting/focus sessions	1	2	3	4	5
c. Communicate the link between research and regulation	1	2	3	4	5
d. Expand the topics discussed	1	2	3	4	5
e. Provide greater opportunity for participants to provide input on the research agenda	1	2	3	4	5
f. Include expert panel discussions in the technical sessions	1	2	3	4	5
g. Provide greater opportunity to network	1	2	3	4	5
h. Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5

18. If you attended WRSM meetings in previous years, or if you were to attend WRSM in the future, please review the following reasons for attending and rate them in terms of their importance to you and your organization from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).

	Most Important			Least Important	
a. To learn about NRC's research	1	2	3	4	5
b. To interact with NRC personnel and other stakeholders	1	2	3	4	5
c. To identify differences between NRC personnel and stakeholders regarding questions to be researched	1	2	3	4	5
d. To enhance stakeholder involvement in research	1	2	3	4	5
e. To identify new or open research questions	1	2	3	4	5
f. To participate in professional networking opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
g. Other (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5

19. What topics do you consider to be most important for discussion at future WRSM meetings?

1. _____ 3. _____
 2. _____ 4. _____

20. What is the best method for the NRC to announce and publicize WRSM?

- Mailed meeting announcement
 E-mailed notification
 View information on NRC/RES/WRSM web site
 Published advertisement
 IEEE Spectrum
 Nuclear News
 Federal Register
 IAEA Publication
 Publicity at other professional meetings (please specify meeting) _____
 Other (please specify) _____

21. What is your preference regarding the time of year for holding the WRSM? The meeting has traditionally been held in October. (Please select three choices and number them according to your preference, with 1 being most preferred, 2 being second most preferred, etc.)

- October November December January February
 March April May June July
 August September

22. The WRSM has taken place annually, what is your preference regarding how often it should take place? (please check only one)

- annually once every two years other (please specify) _____

23. Currently the WRSM lasts three days. Is this the right amount of time for this meeting? Yes No

If no, please let us know your preference (please check only one):

- 1 day 2 days 4 days 5 days

24. Is the location of the WRSM in the Washington, DC metro area appropriate? Yes No

If no, what is your preferred location? _____

25. At the October 1999 meeting, the WRSM adopted a new format that provides significant time during sessions (in addition to questions and answers on the research presented) for facilitated discussion between the audience and presenters related to the session's objective. Is this format one you think should be continued at future meetings?

- Yes No

NRC/RES is interested in getting your input on improving stakeholder communications/involvement in the research process other than the WRSM meeting. The following questions refer to this objective:

26. How should stakeholders be involved in the NRC/RES research process? (Please rate the following list from 1 (most preferred) to 5 (least preferred).)
- Identify regulatory issues which need additional technical basis
 - Identify current gaps in information in the current regulatory framework
 - Identify new technology and its future application by the industry
 - Comment on the scope and priority of research programs
 - Comment on research products
 - Stakeholders need not be involved in the NRC/RES research process.

27. What communication methods should NRC/RES implement to enhance stakeholder involvement in the research process? Check all that apply:

- Hold meetings/workshops (e.g., to review research or to solicit input to NRC/RES research agenda)
- Publicize NRC/RES research information on an NRC/RES web site and gather feedback
- Publicize NRC/RES research information through trade publications
- Host an internet-based discussion forum on NRC/RES research
- Publish an NRC/RES newsletter
- RES participate in industry and professional meetings
- Other

28. Have you or your stakeholder group typically been involved in NRC/RES' research process? Yes No
If yes, please check all that apply:

- Participated in meetings/workshops to provide early input on a research activity
- Attended RES briefings on the status of an on-going research project
- Provided peer review of a research paper
- Interacted with NRC/RES decision makers regarding the research agenda
- Other

29. We would appreciate your additional comments in the space below regarding how WRSM meetings could be of greater value to you or your organization and/or how to improve stakeholder involvement in the research process: _____

Thank you for your interest and your responses. Please mail this questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided, or mail to:

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20251 Century Blvd., Suite 200
Germantown, MD 20874
Attn: Leila Peterson