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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Thursday, September 25, 1997)

NRC SCHEDULES WORKSHOP IN ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND ON "RESTRICTED RELEASE" DECOMMISSIONING PROCEDURES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will conduct a workshop October 15 to receive public comments on draft guidance that the NRC is developing on how to meet Commission requirements for decommissioning nuclear facilities under what are known as "restricted release" provisions.

The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at about 5 p.m. at the NRC's ACRS meeting room at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Members of the public may also participate in the workshop via video- and audio-conference at the NRC's Region II office at the Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, and Region III office at 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois.

Video conferencing will be available in the Atlanta office from 9 a.m. through 12 noon (EDT), and audio capabilities from 1 p.m. through 5 p.m. In the Lisle office, video conferencing will be available from 12 noon through 4 p.m. (CDT) and audio capabilities from 8 a.m. through 11 a.m.

A copy of the working paper to be discussed may be obtained electronically at the NRC's Website under the topic "Final Rule for License Termination" at http://techconf.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/topics. A copy is also available from the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555; telephone: 202/634-3273.

Comments on the working paper may be posted electronically through the Website or may be mailed to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. They should be submitted by November 30.

The NRC issued a regulation providing criteria for radiological cleanup of contaminated sites on July 21. Under the rule, release of a property following cleanup may be either "unrestricted," in which case it could be used for any purpose, or "restricted," so that it could not be used for certain purposes, such as residential housing. The guidance to be discussed at the workshop on restricted release will eventually be incorporated into an NRC regulatory guide, "Demonstrating Compliance with the Radiological Criteria for License Termination."

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