

as well as a proposed ACRS report on Safety Culture.

Friday, March 7, 2003

8:30 a.m.–8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:35 a.m.–10:30 a.m.: Early Site Permit Process (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding draft review standard RS-002, "Processing Applications for Early Site Permits," and related matters.

10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.: Overview of the Format and Content of the Fort Calhoun License Renewal Application (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff on the format and content of the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant license renewal application, the first plant to submit a license renewal application using the generic license renewal guidance documents.

12:45 p.m.–1:30 p.m.: Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee (Open)—The Committee will discuss the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the full Committee during future meetings. Also, it will hear a report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee on matters related to the conduct of ACRS business, including anticipated workload and member assignments.

1:30 p.m.–1:45 p.m.: Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations (Open)—The Committee will discuss the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations (EDO) to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters. The EDO responses are expected to be made available to the Committee prior to the meeting.

2 p.m.–4 p.m.: Preparation for Meeting with the NRC Commissioners (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed topics for discussion during the ACRS meeting with the NRC Commissioners which is scheduled to be held on Friday, April 11, 2003, between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

4:15 p.m.–7 p.m.: Proposed ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports.

Saturday, March 8, 2003

8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.: Proposed ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will continue to discuss proposed ACRS

reports. In addition, the Committee will discuss a draft white paper prepared by the ACRS Senior Fellow on the role and use of PRA in the regulatory decisionmaking process.

1 p.m.–1:30 p.m.: Miscellaneous (Open)—The Committee will discuss matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on October 11, 2002 (67 FR 63460). In accordance with those procedures, oral or written views may be presented by members of the public, including representatives of the nuclear industry. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during the open portions of the meeting. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Associate Director for Technical Support named below five days before the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during the meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Associate Director prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the Associate Director if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, as well as the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefore can be obtained by contacting Dr. Sher Bahadur, Associate Director for Technical Support (301-415-0138), between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., ET.

ACRS meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available through the NRC Public Document Room at pdr@nrc.gov, or by calling the PDR at 1-800-397-4209, or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS) which is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> or <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/> (ACRS & ACNW Mtg schedules/agendas).

Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACRS meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACRS meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACRS Audio Visual Technician (301-415-8066), between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., ET, at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment and facilities that they use to establish the videoteleconferencing link. The availability of videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 03-4109 Filed 2-20-03; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on March 5, 2003, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows: Wednesday, March 5, 2003—1:30 p.m. until the conclusion of business.

The Subcommittee will discuss proposed ACRS activities and related matters. The Subcommittee will gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Members of the public desiring to provide oral statements and/or written comments should notify the Designated Federal Official, Mr. Sam Duraiswamy (telephone: 301/415-7364) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (ET) five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public.

Further information regarding this meeting can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Official between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (ET). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual at least two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes in the agenda.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Sher Bahadur,

*Associate Director for Technical Support,
ACRS/ACNW.*

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Solicitation of Public Comments on Spent Fuel Transportation Package Performance Study Test Protocols

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Opening of comment period and public meeting announcement.

SUMMARY: This **Federal Register** notice announces the availability, for public comment, of the Test Protocols Report (draft NUREG-1768) for the NRC's spent nuclear fuel transportation Package Performance Study (PPS). The PPS is a confirmatory research program focused on the probabilities and consequences of severe transportation accidents—the very small fraction of accidents that could result in impact or thermal forces, on casks, that exceed NRC's standards for cask design. The PPS will use a combination of testing and analyses to develop data and validate methods of analysis for use in transportation risk assessments. A public participation process will continue as PPS proceeds, to ensure that stakeholder concerns are considered by the PPS and to support increased public confidence in NRC's regulatory activities, considering potential future increases in the number of spent fuel transports.

The test protocols report describes, at a conceptual level, full-scale spent fuel cask impact and fire physical testing that NRC may sponsor over the next couple of years. The "Executive Summary" of the test protocols report is included in this notice, and full copies of the report are available for comment at NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff> or may be obtained from the contact. Additional copies of the report and other PPS related documents can also be found at the Sandia Web site: <http://ttd.sandia.gov/nrc/modal.html>.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until May 30, 2003. Comments received after this date and time will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received before this date and time. As part of the public comments period, NRC will hold four (4) facilitated meetings: in Bethesda, Maryland, on March 6, 2003; in Las Vegas, Nevada, on March 12, 2003; in Pahrump, Nevada, on March 13, 2003; and in Rosemont, Illinois, on March 19, 2003. The meetings will be transcribed and transcripts will be made available from the Sandia Web site.

ADDRESSES: NRC recommends that comments be submitted by e-mail, but mail delivery is acceptable. Submit comments to Michael Lesar, Chief Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: T6-D-59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001; or by internet electronic mail to nrcprep@nrc.gov. Comments may also be provided at the NRC Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/form.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Andrew J. Murphy about any questions on the material in the Test Protocols Report. He can be reached at the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop: T-10-D-20, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone 301-415-6011 or by internet electronic mail at ajm1@nrc.gov.

Any questions on participation in the public meetings should be directed to Mr. Francis X. Cameron; telephone 301-415-1642 or by internet electronic mail at fxc@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PPS began in 1999 with a scoping phase, consisting of a series of public meetings to identify stakeholder issues with transportation risk studies and identify potential areas of further research. The scoping phase of PPS culminated in 2000 with issuance of the PPS issues and resolution options report (hereafter Issues Report) for comment, and an associated series of public meetings. NRC has since reissued the Issues Report, together with summaries of the public meetings and written comments received, as NUREG/CR-6768. The Issues Report identified the lines of investigation for PPS: (1) Use recent accident statistics/data to reconstruct train and train accident event trees; (2) perform a high-speed impact test on a full-scale rail cask, to compare pre-test analyses with test results; (3) perform a long-duration fire test to compare pre-

test analyses with test results; and (4) perform experiments on fuel pellets, rods, and assemblies, to examine failure modes and fracturing properties, to support radioactive material release analyses.

The PPS Test Protocols Report is the first major PPS document since the Issues Report. The Test Protocols Report describes, at a conceptual level, the impact and fire tests that are currently planned for PPS, along with the goals for these tests. Several other PPS tasks, including the accident statistics/data work, historical accidents investigation, and uncertainty/sensitivity analyses for risk assessments, are planned as part of PPS, but they are not part of the Test Protocol, as it focuses on testing. Fuel tests are not discussed in the Test Protocols Report, because those tests are proceeding on a different schedule from the impact and fire tests being conducted under the PPS.

As mentioned, the Test Protocols describe PPS tests at a conceptual level. NRC believes it is prudent to obtain comments on the tests while at a conceptual level, because detailed planning and procurement for a specific series of tests will be a resource-intensive effort, and NRC recognizes that comments could change test approaches and plans. After comments on the Test Protocols have been collected and considered, NRC will modify PPS plans as necessary and direct development of detailed test plans and procedures for each of the PPS testing programs. The detailed plans, procedures, and tests will be made available.

Public Meetings

In addition to soliciting written public comment on the protocols, NRC will conduct public meetings to facilitate discussion and comment on the PPS Test Protocols. The meetings are planned as follows:

- **Workshop:** March 6, 2003, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., in the Auditorium at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001;
- **Workshop:** March 12, 2003, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., at the Clark County Building Department, Russell/Cameron Office, 4701 West Russell Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118;
- **Public Meeting/Seminar:** March 13, 2003, 6 p.m.–9 p.m., at the Mountain View Casino and Bowl, 1750 South Pahrump Valley Boulevard, Pahrump, Nevada 89048; and
- **Workshop:** March 19, 2003, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel O'Hare, 5500 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018.