

to report on ongoing Council initiatives, and to plan for future directions.

Dated: January 4, 1996.

Sandra Perlmutter,

*Executive Director, President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CA-063-1150-00]

#### Cancellation of Public Workshops for the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan

The following public meetings announced in the Federal Register will not be held because of the furlough of BLM employees during the partial shutdown of the Federal government:

January 8, Riverside  
 January 9, Long Beach  
 January 10, Twentynine Palms  
 January 11, Palm Springs  
 January 16, Needles  
 January 17, Blythe  
 January 18, El Centro  
 January 22, Rancho Bernardo

For More Information: Contact the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District, External Affairs Office, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California 92507, (909) 697-5217.

Dated: January 3, 1996.

Jo Simpson,

*Acting District Manager.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Abnormal Occurrence Reports: Implementation of Section 208 Energy Reorganization Act of 1974; Proposed Policy Statement

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed policy statement.

**SUMMARY:** This policy statement presents the revised criteria the Commission is considering for use in submitting the quarterly abnormal occurrence (AO) reports to Congress and the public in a timely manner as stated in Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended. The AO policy statement has been revised to provide more specific criteria for determining those incidents

and events that the Commission considers significant from the standpoint of public health and safety for reporting to Congress, and to make the AO policy consistent with recent changes to NRC regulations. The revised AO criteria contain more discrete reporting thresholds making them easier to use and ensuring more consistent application of the intended AO reporting policy set forth by the Commission.

**DATES:** The public comment period on this proposed policy statement ends April 8, 1996. Comments received after the public comment period will be addressed if it is practicable to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration of only those comments received on or before the last day of the comment period.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch. Hand deliver comments to 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays.

Examine comments received at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harriet Karagiannis, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone: (301) 415-6377.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-438, 42 U.S.C. 5848), as amended, provides that:

The Commission shall submit to Congress each quarter a report listing for that period any AOs at or associated with any facility which is licensed or otherwise regulated pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, or pursuant to this Act. For the purposes of this Section, an AO is an unscheduled incident or event which the Commission has determined to be significant from the standpoint of public health and safety. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall limit the authority of a court to review the determination of the Commission. Each such report shall contain:

- (1) The date and place of each occurrence;
- (2) The nature and probable consequence of each occurrence;
- (3) The cause or causes of each; and

(4) Any action taken to prevent recurrence.

The Commission shall also provide as wide dissemination to the public of the information specified in clauses (1) and (2) of this section as reasonably possible within 15 days of its receiving information of each AO and shall provide as wide dissemination to the public as reasonably possible of the information specified in clauses (3) and (4) as soon as such information becomes available to it.

In July 1975, in the exercise of the authority conferred upon the Commission by Congress to determine which unscheduled incidents or events are significant from the standpoint of public health and safety and are reportable to Congress as AOs, the Commission developed interim criteria for evaluating licensee incidents or events. On the basis of these interim criteria and as required by Section 208, the Commission began issuing quarterly reports to Congress on AOs. These reports<sup>1</sup> "Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences," have been issued in NUREG 75/090 and NUREG-0090-1 through 5 for the period from January 1975 through September 1976. On the basis of its experience in the preparation and issuance of AO reports, the Commission issued a general statement of policy that described the manner in which it will, as part of the routine conduct of its business, carry out its responsibilities under Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, for identifying AOs and making the requisite information concerning each such occurrence available to Congress and the public in a timely manner. This general statement of policy was published in the Federal Register on February 24, 1977 (Vol. 42, No. 37, pages 10950-10952) and provides criteria and examples of types of events that the Commission uses in determining whether a particular event is reportable to Congress as an AO. The Commission has since refined this statement of policy on a number of occasions to reflect changes in regulation and policy. On the basis of these criteria, and as required by Section 208 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, the Commission has issued quarterly reports to Congress on AOs since March 1977. These reports,

<sup>1</sup> Copies of the NUREG-0090 series may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Mail Stop SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9328, the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, and the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC. 20037