

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy; Public Meeting on NRC Regulatory Oversight of DOE Facilities

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 1998, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to address issues related to the recently established pilot program for NRC's external regulation of certain DOE facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a joint public meeting to provide information on this pilot project on Tuesday, March 24, 1998, at 7:00 P.M. at the American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

In June 1997, DOE and NRC agreed to pursue NRC external regulation of certain DOE facilities on a pilot program basis. A pilot program of NRC simulated regulation has been established to collect information on the desirability of NRC oversight and on whether to seek legislation to authorize such oversight. The DOE and the NRC expect to evaluate six to ten DOE facilities over the next two years under the pilot program. The Radiochemical Engineering Development Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has been chosen as one of the pilot sites.

The major areas of discussion at this meeting will be:

- The overall pilot program and background information.
- The ORNL Work Plan.
- Major issues affecting NRC oversight (generic and site-specific).

One of the main purposes of the meeting is to describe the process through which stakeholders may participate in the pilot program. Stakeholders will be invited to ask questions and submit comments relevant to the objectives of the pilot program and the process by which those objectives are proposed to be addressed at the Radiochemical Engineering Development Center. Issues raised by stakeholders will be addressed in the final report following the pilot evaluation at ORNL.

Since 1994, the Department of Energy (DOE) has been considering whether there are advantages to be gained from external regulation of existing DOE

facilities. Two advisory groups recommended that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) be considered as the external regulator of nuclear and radiological safety at DOE sites. External regulation by the NRC may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DOE's radiological safety programs. DOE facilities would be regulated consistent with other facilities of the same type engaged in similar activities, and the NRC could maintain complete independence because it has no responsibility for operating the facilities.

A number of background documents pertaining to the issue of NRC oversight of DOE facilities are available or will be made available prior to the meeting. These include:

- A draft Pilot Program Work Plan for the Radiochemical Engineering Development Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and DOE, dated November 21, 1997.
- An NRC Commission Paper entitled, "Status Report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Task Force On Oversight of the Department of Energy, In Response to COMSECY -96-053—DSI 2," SECY-97-206, dated September 12, 1997.
- An NRC Commission Paper entitled, "Status Report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Task Force On Oversight of the Department of Energy, In Response to COMSECY -96-053—DSI 2 (Report No. 2)," SECY-97-301, dated December 29, 1997.
- NRC Staff Requirements Memorandum: COMSECY-96-053, "Oversight of the Department of Energy (DSI 2)," dated March 28, 1997.
- NRC Direction Setting Issue Paper "Oversight of the Department of Energy" (DSI 2) dated September 16, 1996.
- Report of the DOE Working Group on External Regulation, dated December 1996.
- Report of the DOE Advisory Committee on External Regulation of DOE Nuclear Safety, dated December 1995.

You may view these documents at the DOE Oak Ridge Public Reading Room, American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, (423) 241-4780. Copies may be obtained by contacting Amy Rothrock at (423) 576-1216. These documents are also available on the joint DOE/NRC Web Site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NMSS/doepilot.html>. As documents are completed, they will be added to the web site. If you would like more

information about this meeting, or need special accommodations to attend, please contact Walter Perry of the DOE Public Affairs Office at (423) 576-0885.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of March, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Carl J. Paperiello,**

*Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

- Rule 19d-1, SEC File No. 270-242, OMB Control No. 3235-0206
- Rule 19d-3, SEC File No. 270-245, OMB Control No. 3235-0204
- Rule 19h-1, SEC File No. 270-247, OMB Control No. 3235-0259

Notice is hereby that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

*Rule 19d-1 Notices by Self-Regulatory Organizations of Final Disciplinary Actions, Denials, Bars, or Limitations Respecting Membership, Association, Participation, or Access to Services, and Summary Suspension*

Rule 19d-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") prescribes the form and content of notices to be filed with the Commission by self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") for which the Commission is the appropriate regulatory agency concerning the following final SRO actions: (1) disciplinary sanctions (including summary suspensions); (2) denials of membership, participation or association with a member; and (3) prohibitions or limitations on access to SRO services. The rule enables the Commission to obtain reports from the SROs containing information regarding SRO determinations to discipline members or associated persons of members, deny membership or