

3435. NRC TAKING A NEW LOOK AT SAFETY ISSUES

The commission says it has decided to take a harder look at whether its licensees are maintaining what NRC calls a "safety-conscious" work environment. That decision was made in the aftermath of the Millstone experience in which numerous safety violations were uncovered along with evidence of whistleblower intimidation.

The commission is considering a new standardized approach to safety that would:

- require licensees to establish and maintain a safety-conscious work environment "with clearly defined attributes."
- establish a sort of safety check list, with indicators that could be monitored; and
- outline specific remedial actions that the commission may refer to if it determines that a licensee has failed to maintain a safe work environment.

The commission is seeking comments and suggestions on the various strategies being considered. They should be mailed to David Meyer, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, or delivered to 11545 Rockville Pike in Maryland.

Taken from "The Energy Daily," Tuesday, March 4, 1997.