NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 E-mail: opa@nrc.gov
Web Site: http://www.nrc.gov/OPA

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NRC ADOPTS MODEL MILESTONES TO INCREASE FAIRNESS AND EFFICIENCY OF ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations on the conduct of adjudicatory hearings to establish "model milestones" for presiding officers to use in scheduling and managing hearings.

The model milestones, set out in a final rule to be published shortly in the *Federal Register*, are designed to ensure the fairness, predictability and efficiency of the NRC's adjudicatory hearing process. They will provide the presiding officer with a starting point for developing a hearing schedule while preserving flexibility to adjust the schedule to the specific requirements of each proceeding. The milestones are largely based upon time requirements set out in NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 2, as amended in January 2004.

The final rule becomes effective 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

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