

June 18, 2003

ORGANIZATION: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 29, 2003 TO DISCUSS  
SMALL LIQUID-METAL REACTOR DESIGNS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with representatives of Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and DOE to discuss safety characteristics and licensing of a small sodium-cooled or lead-bismuth cooled nuclear reactor. The list of meeting attendees is set forth in Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2 contains the meeting handouts, which can be accessed through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). This system provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The handouts mentioned above may be accessed through the ADAMS system under Accession No. ML031530396. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the handouts located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

ANL, LLNL, and the Central Research Institute of the Electric Power Industry (Japan) are working together to identify a small (50 MWe) liquid-metal cooled fast reactor concept suitable for prototype testing in a joint US/Japan program. The University of California at Berkeley and an industrial partner (potentially) will provide support to the program. The target market for this future reactor design is developing countries with small power grids or remote and island locations. A goal for the design is a long refueling cycle of 15-30 years. After testing the prototype plant, the participants plan to license a manufacturing facility to build the complete nuclear plant for shipment to the site.

The staff told the meeting participants that, if they want to work informally with the NRC on preparation for licensing a liquid-metal reactor, they could (1) comment on the manufacturing licensing process in the upcoming proposed rule for 10 CFR Part 52; (2) comment on "Policy Issues related to licensing Non-Light-Water Reactor Designs" (SECY-03-0047), and (3) participate in upcoming public workshops on the development of a framework for future nuclear power plant licensing. If the participants want a formal review of their reactor design or licensing approach, they were told to send a letter to the NRC requesting a pre-application review of specified issues relating to a future license application.

/RA/

Jerry N. Wilson, Senior Policy Analyst  
New Reactor Licensing Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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MEETING ON SMALL LIQUID-METAL REACTOR  
MAY 29, 2003 - 9:00 A.M.

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