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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHANGES IN NRC LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATORS
TO BE DISCUSSED AT TWO-DAY WORKSHOP IN PHILADELPHIA**

A two-day workshop covering changes in NRC requirements for the testing and licensing of nuclear power plant operators will be held in Philadelphia on Tuesday, August 17, and Wednesday, August 18.

NRC staff and members of the Mid-Atlantic Nuclear Training Group, made up of nuclear industry representatives, will participate in the meetings, which will begin at 7:30 a.m. both days at the Philadelphia Airport Hilton Hotel, 4509 Island Ave.

The workshop will be open for public observation with the payment of a registration fee. The cost is \$150 per person.

As part of a revamping of its inspection program, the NRC is changing the manner in which control room operators are tested and licensed. Previously, the agency drew up exams and administered them to operator candidates. In 1995, a voluntary pilot program was launched that allowed the companies that run the plants to prepare the tests, which the NRC reviews and approves. Starting this fall, the program will become official, with all plant operators encouraged to participate. The NRC, as it has in the past, will administer the tests and determine whether a candidate is qualified for licensing.

At the workshop, participants will discuss implementation issues and concerns.

For information on registering for the workshop and other details, call (708) 579-8316.

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