

## **Use of NRC Requirements for New DOE Construction Projects: A Summary from the January 2000 AB Workshop.**

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The 1999 fiscal year Appropriations Bill for DOE states: The Department is directed to ensure that all nuclear facilities for which construction begins in the year 2000 and beyond, with the exception of those defense facilities... deemed... critical to national security needs, are constructed in accordance with NRC licensing standards.

The intent of this directive was to facilitate NRC licensing of new DOE facilities, in anticipation of external (NRC) regulation. NRC requirements have been used to varying degrees and with varying success on some new DOE construction projects. The results from the January 2000 AB Workshop where the issues associated with using NRC requirements on new DOE construction projects were addressed are summarized herein.

The three papers presented at the AB Workshop addressed using NRC requirements for two new construction projects:

1. The first paper addressed two buildings for the Spent Nuclear Fuel project located on the Hanford site,
2. The second paper addressed the regulatory oversight and guidance for the River Protection Program – Waste Treatment Plant, also located on the Hanford site, and
3. The third paper addressed the selection of NRC requirements for design of the River Protection Program – Waste Treatment Plant.

Several problems identified when considering NRC and DOE requirements included cost impacts, differing regulatory meanings for similar terminology, differing requirements, differing levels of conservatism and differing regulatory approaches.

Positive results were that a systematic processes must be used to select safety requirements for any project, the key to a safe facility lies with rigorous and competent implementation of a set of sound safety requirements, and an improved safety analysis can be prepared.

The results of the January 2000 AB Workshop can provide valuable guidance for new DOE construction projects.