closed to public attendance to discuss information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

J. Miscellaneous—Discuss miscellaneous matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and organizational activities and complete discussion of matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACNW meetings were published in the Federal Register on October 7, 1994 (59 FR 51219). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the ACNW Executive Director, Dr. John T. Larkins, as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the ACNW Executive Director prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the ACNW Executive Director if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the ACNW Executive Director, Dr. John T. Larkins (telephone 301/415–7360), between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. EST.

Dated: February 3, 1995.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer. [FR Doc. 95–3152 Filed 2–7–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590–01–M

Freedom of Employees in the Nuclear Industry To Raise Safety Concerns Without Fear of Retaliation; Draft Policy Statement

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft statement of policy.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is issuing this draft policy statement for public comment. The draft policy statement emphasizes the importance that the Commission places on maintaining a quality-conscious environment in which all employees in the nuclear industry feel free to raise safety concerns, both to their management and to the NRC, without fear of retaliation. The responsibility for maintaining this type of an environment rests with each NRC licensee, as well as with contractors, subcontractors and employees in the nuclear industry. This policy statement would be applicable to licensed activities of all NRC licensees and their contractors and subcontractors.

DATES: The comment period expires April 10, 1995. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to: Secretary, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 am and 4:15 pm, Federal workdays. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Lieberman, Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, (301) 504–2741.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NRC licensees have the primary responsibility to ensure the safety of nuclear operations. Identification and communication of potential safety concerns ¹ and the freedom of employees to raise such concerns is an integral part of carrying out this responsibility.

In the past, employees have raised important issues and as a result, the public health and safety has benefited. Although the Commission recognizes that not every concern raised by employees is safety significant or, for that matter, is valid, the Commission concludes that it is important that licensees' management establish an environment in which safety issues are promptly identified and effectively resolved and in which employees feel free to raise concerns.

Although hundreds of concerns are raised and resolved daily in the nuclear industry, the Commission, on occasion, receives reports of individuals being retaliated against for raising concerns. This retaliation is unacceptable and unlawful. In addition to the hardship caused to the individual employee, the perception by fellow workers that raising concerns has resulted in retaliation can generate a chilling effect that may discourage other workers from raising concerns. A reluctance on the part of employees to raise concerns is detrimental to nuclear safety.

As a result of questions raised about NRC's efforts to address retaliation against individuals who raise health and safety concerns, the Commission established a review team in 1993 to reassess the NRC's program for protecting allegers against retaliation. In its report (NUREG-1499, "Reassessment of the NRC's Program for Protecting Allegers Against Retaliation," January 7, 1994) the review team made numerous recommendations, including several recommendations that addressed the need to encourage responsible licensee action with regard to encouraging a quality-conscious environment in which to raise safety concerns (recommendations II.A-1, II.A-2, and II.A-4). This policy statement is being issued after considering those recommendations and the bases for them. The policy statement and the principles set forth in it are intended to apply to licensed activities of all NRC licensees and their contractors,2 although it is recognized that some of the suggestions, programs, or steps that might be taken to improve the quality of the work environment (e.g., establishment of an employee concerns program) may not be practical or may not be needed for very small licensees that have only a few employees and a very simple management structure.

¹Throughout this notice, the terms "concerns," "a safety problem," or "safety concerns" refer to concerns associated with issues within the Commission's jurisdiction, whether or not a violation of NRC requirements is involved.

²Throughout this Notice, the term "contractor" includes contractors and subcontractors of licensees.