

Excerpt From NRC's Communications Plan for Morning Report Cancellation

Q: Why is NRC discontinuing the use of Morning Reports?

A: With so many different methods available to the NRC staff for communicating significant public health and safety issues, the Morning Report has become relatively obsolete. In recent years, very few nuclear safety issues have been communicated via Morning Report. Instead, Morning Reports have been used almost exclusively to communicate management changes at commercial nuclear power plants. In the past, 10 CFR Part 21 reports were also distributed via Morning Reports. There is now a separate web page available on the NRC website for tracking Part 21 reports.

Q: How will the information currently in Morning Reports be disseminated once Morning Reports are discontinued?

A: Information on management changes at nuclear power plants will be communicated through licensee press releases and via normal communications between NRC resident inspectors and their regional management. 10 CFR Part 21 reports have their own web page on the NRC website. Generic issues that the NRC desires to report in a more timely manner than that provided by the Generic Communications program will now be reported as Preliminary Notifications rather than as Morning Reports.

Q: What changes will be made to how the NRC issues Preliminary Notifications?

A: Inspection Manual Chapter 1120 (MC 1120), "Preliminary Notifications," has already been modified. While all references to Morning Reports have been removed from MC 1120, the most significant changes are in the criteria for issuing a Preliminary Notification. The criteria are now grouped by type of facility or event (power reactor, contamination/dose, security, etc) and more concise wording is used. In addition, a criterion was added whereby NRC Headquarters Operating Experience Branch can issue a Preliminary Notification to notify stakeholders of timely, safety-significant issues that would previously have been the subject of a Morning Report. Though the Preliminary Notification criteria were re-organized, their content remains consistent with that which was used previously. Administrative processes for drafting and distributing Preliminary Notifications will remain the same.