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CAMERA COVERAGE OF HEARINGS BEFORE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARDS AND ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING APPEAL BOARDS

General Statement of Policy

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has considered requests from television stations and newspapers to permit the use of cameras during proceedings before Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards and Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Boards. In the past the NRC has permitted cameras to be used only before and after adjudicatory sessions and during recesses. The Commission has decided that, on a trial basis, it will permit the use of television and still cameras by accredited news media under certain conditions. Cameras may be used by news media during hearings and related public proceedings before Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards and Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Boards provided they do not require additional lighting beyond that required for the conduct of the proceeding and are stationed at a fixed position within the hearing room throughout the course of the proceeding. It will continue to be the practice of the hearing and appeal boards to use Federal or State court rooms when these facilities are available and in such cases the policy of those courts in regard to the use of cameras will be observed.

The Commission plans to reassess this policy in about six months after its hearing and appeal boards have had sufficient experience with camera coverage to determine whether it can be carried out without disruption to the proceeding or unacceptable distraction to the participants.