

# WASHINGTON REPORT

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taminated persons, protection for emergency workers, communications, evacuation of hospital patients, training, and designation of local response organizations. Final criteria may become available by October, according to FEMA.

The rule requiring emergency plans will be issued by NRC, perhaps in August; it was proposed last December 5. However, the criteria for the plans will be issued by NRC and FEMA jointly. They may be given out at a national workshop in October. On the other hand FEMA alone has been reviewing *existing* state and local plans, under a Presidential order. A resulting Report to the President went to the White House with a June 30 date but by the second week of July no word of its content had come from there. A FEMA spokesman said that for the moment the White House was "sitting on" the document.

FEMA has been reported as wanting to recommend the closing

of nuclear plants close to large metropolitan areas including New York, Philadelphia, Des Moines, Chicago, New London, Miami, and Pittsburgh. Presumably FEMA feels that no amount of emergency planning would make these plants as safe as they "ought" to be for the millions of citizens nearby. Would NRC agree?

FEMA has been designated to take the lead in off-site nuclear plant emergency planning and response, while NRC retains on-site responsibilities. These responsibilities overlap, of course. By its reaction to FEMA's June 30 Report to the President, the White House may indicate whether it wants off-site or on-site values to prevail—not only in emergency plan criteria but in plant operation.

## DOT Berated on EMS Vehicle Misuse

The House Appropriations Committee has published hearings held a few months ago on the highway safety program administered by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,

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## **2 Agencies Struggling with Nuclear Emergency Rules**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are struggling to cooperate in producing: a) a rule requiring state and local emergency plans for all nuclear power plants, and b) criteria to be met by the emergency plans. For emergency medical people relevant criteria will include those involving treatment of radiologically con-

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