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Public Announcement

NRC ENERGY COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR ENERGY STUDY,
SETS HEARINGS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Assembly of Engineering

202-389-6243

I. The Study

At the request of the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering has undertaken to study the role of nuclear power among alternative energy systems for the years 1980-2010. The study will embrace consideration of energy demand as well as supply.

The study will not promote particular energy options; rather, it will attempt to set forth, to the extent allowed by the present state of knowledge, (a) the various policy options, (b) the consequences (benefits/risks) of following those options, and (c) the uncertainties in our knowledge of the consequences. It will also attempt to identify critical areas of uncertainty that may be susceptible to research and development (R&D), and evaluate the sensitivity of future policy choices to current R&D strategies.

The NRC Committee on Nuclear and Alternative Energy Systems is in charge of the study. A preliminary report of the study will be released in December 1976; the principal report is due the following June. Both will be issued to ERDA, the Congress, and the public.

II. The Public Meetings

To obtain the broadest possible perspective for assuring a balanced and comprehensive study, the National Research Council has scheduled five one-day open hearings throughout the country to receive the views of informed and concerned people regarding the NRC study and the energy issues it will consider. The dates and places of the hearings are:

- January 22, 1976 -- New York City
- January 27, 1976 -- Atlanta
- January 29, 1976 -- Minneapolis -- *Murphy Hill - 9-5 10 min.*
- February 3, 1976 -- San Francisco
- February 5, 1976 -- Denver

Under a policy for public access recently established by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, each NRC study of high public interest is expected to include an open meeting early in the planning stage so that citizens may have an opportunity to express their views, comments, and concerns regarding the planning of the study. The public meetings for the NRC Energy study are the first extensive set of hearings undertaken by the Academies.

The specific purpose of the open meetings on the NRC energy study is to receive public input on:

- (1) the issues that the study should address; and
- (2) the study plan.