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their own training and experience credentials and day-to-day radiation safety operating procedures, and simply certify in the application that the requirements had been met.

At a public meeting on that proposal, however, some NRC staff and representatives of the Agreement States expressed concern over the potential hazard of safety problems that, under the current application review system, are brought to light and resolved in the licensing process. (An Agreement State establishes its

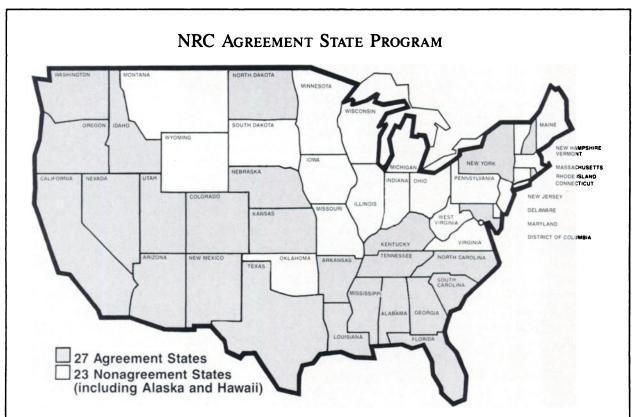
own licensing requirements and procedures under an agreement with the NRC.)

The NRC Commissioners directed the staff to revise the proposal to continue prelicensing review of physicians' credentials and applicants' operating procedures. The proposed revision, therefore, retains the current application process under which the entire radiation safety program is described, but allows licensees to make minor changes in their radiation safety programs. (Major changes that require an amendment are: new

authorized users, new types of use, increased possession limits, and new locations of use; all other changes are, by tacit definition, minor.)

This revision of the regulatory process should reduce NRC medical licensing items by about 30 percent.

Although it will not relieve licensees of the paperwork burden associated with minor amendments because an internal approval process is required, it will avoid the lengthy turnaround time associated with license amendments, and the amendment fee.



The 1959 Federal-State amendment to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 was drafted to provide a definitive mechanism for adjusting federal-state relations in the area of atomic energy. This amendment's primary purpose was to authorize the Atomic Energy Commission (whose regulatory functions were reassigned to the newly established Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1975) to relinquish to the individual states certain areas of regulatory jurisdiction.

"This approach reflected the general view that most

citizens look to their local health officers for advice and protection against hazardous materials used in the community," according to the 1977 Final Task Force Report on the Agreement States Program (NUREG-0388).

Certain provisions were included to authorize the Commission to provide training and other services to state employees, and to authorize states to perform inspections in cooperation with the Commission. Kentucky became the first Agreement State in 1962, and the most recent addition was Utah in 1984.