

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to publish a rule that will permit the privatization of administrative functions requiring access to criminal history record information for noncriminal justice purposes.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter IX, the Compact Council (Council), established by the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Act of 1998 (Compact), is issuing notice of its intent to promulgate a rule enabling third parties to act as agents for governmental and nongovernmental agencies while performing administrative functions requiring access to criminal history record information (CHRI) for authorized noncriminal justice purposes.

**Authority:** Title 42, United States Code, Section 14616.

Additionally, a limited number of third parties will be preapproved by the FBI to serve as conduits to send electronic noncriminal justice fingerprint requests to, and receive CHRI from, the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division for dissemination to authorized recipients as provided by federal statute or federal executive order.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Cathy L. Morrison, interim FBI Compact Officer, FBI CJIS Division, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Module C3, Clarksburg, WV 26306; Telephone (304) 625-2736; E-mail [cmorriso@leo.gov](mailto:cmorriso@leo.gov); Fax number (304) 625-5388.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Council is comprised of federal, state and local representatives of criminal and noncriminal justice agencies. The Compact authorizes the Council to establish rules, procedures, and standards for fingerprint-based noncriminal justice criminal history record checks. The Council, in cooperation with the FBI's CJIS Division and its Advisory Policy Board, is announcing its intent to promulgate a rule that will enable authorized local, state, and federal governmental agencies and nongovernmental entities to contract with the private sector to perform administrative duties relating to the noncriminal justice use of CHRI for employment, licensing, and other authorized purposes.

The reason for the proposed rule is that, over the last several years, the volume of authorized fingerprint-based noncriminal justice criminal history record checks has escalated. In many states, the number of fingerprint submissions for noncriminal justice purposes outnumber those submitted for

criminal justice purposes. The escalating number of noncriminal justice fingerprint submissions has resulted in increased workloads for local, state, and federal governmental agencies and for nongovernmental entities. Implementation of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, the USA PATRIOT Act and other federal and state statutes since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, has contributed to the recent increase of authorized criminal history record checks. Efforts are underway to modify the CFR to permit authorized recipients of CHRI to contract with the private sector to accomplish such fingerprint-based criminal history record checks for noncriminal justice purposes and to do so in an efficient, effective, and secure fashion.

Dated: February 19, 2003.

**Monte C. Strait,**

*Section Chief, Programs Development Section, Federal Bureau of Investigation.*

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## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

### **Handbook of Parameter Estimation for Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA)**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

**ACTION:** Announcement of issuance for public comment, availability, and public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued for public comment a document entitled "Handbook of Parameter Estimation for Probabilistic Risk Assessment." This handbook provides guidance on sources of information and methods of estimating distributions of parameters used in probabilistic risk assessment. This includes determination of both plant-specific and generic estimates for initiating event frequencies, component failure rates and unavailability, and equipment non-recovery probabilities. Interested individuals may obtain a copy of this document from the person identified under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

**DATES:** Please submit comments by May 23, 2003. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC Staff is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

A public meeting will be held on April 2, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to

discuss the document and give guidance for its review and to address external stakeholder comments received before the public meeting. The primary authors will be available at the public meeting to answer questions and discuss items of interest to the public.

The NRC is interested in receiving comments on specific topics reviewers wish to discuss at the public meeting. Reviewers are requested to contact Mr. Arthur Salomon at 301-415-6552 or e-mail [ads@nrc.gov](mailto:ads@nrc.gov) by March 21, 2003, with comments or issues they wish to have addressed at the public meeting.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit comments to Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Or, you may deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Federal workdays.

The public meeting will be held at Two White Flint North, Room T10 A1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The draft document and certain other documents related to this action may be examined in the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Public File Area O1 F21, Rockville, Maryland.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Arthur D. Salomon, Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone: 301-415-6552, e-mail: [ads@nrc.gov](mailto:ads@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** During the last several years the NRC and the nuclear industry have recognized that PRA has evolved to the point where it can be used as a tool in the regulatory decision-making process. The increased use of PRA has led to the conclusion that the PRA scope and model must be commensurate with the applications. Several procedural guides and standards (such as the "Standard For Probabilistic Risk Assessment For Nuclear Power Plant Applications" published by The American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 2002) have been and are being developed that identify requirements for the PRA models. This handbook was prepared to supplement these documents. It provides a compendium of good practices that a PRA analyst can use to develop parameter distributions required for quantifying PRA models. It complements the ASME PRA Standard by providing guidance for estimation of parameters related to initiating events; by describing statistical techniques for estimating parameters used in analysis