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For immediate release, March 29, 2012

**Statement on National Academies Prepublication Copy of the
*Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations near Nuclear Facilities: Phase I***

Takoma Park, Maryland: The National Research Council of the National Academies today released a Prepublication Copy of the *Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations near Nuclear Facilities: Phase I*. It was prepared by the Committee on the Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations near Nuclear Facilities. This study is meant to examine the feasibility of estimating cancer risks to people living near nuclear facilities, including, but not only, commercial nuclear power reactors. The study recommended a Phase 2, in which pilot studies should be done of populations near six nuclear facilities, of which the first five are nuclear power reactors:

- Dresden in Illinois, with two boiling water reactors
- Oyster Creek in New Jersey, with one boiling water reactor
- San Onofre in California, with two operating (though currently down) and one closed pressurized water reactors
- Millstone in Connecticut, with two operating and one close pressurized water reactors
- Haddam Neck in Connecticut with one closed pressurized water reactor
- Nuclear Fuel Services, a nuclear materials processing facility in Tennessee

“I have read the summary of this report and welcome it as a thoughtful and very substantive contribution to the literature on cancer risks that people may face if they live near nuclear facilities,” said Dr. Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER). “IEER will prepare detailed technical comments on this report within the 60-day comment period. For now, I want to note, that I believe the recommendation for a Phase 2 feasibility study is well thought out and may, for the first time in the United States, throw light on the issue of cancer risk near nuclear facilities in a manner that past studies have not done. I especially support the study of pediatric cancers around the six facilities. IEER will provide suggestions to the Committee on some of the factors to be included in such a study after we have reviewed the full report carefully.”

A comment was also sent to IEER for publication by the Sauer family. The Sauer family lived in the vicinity of the Braidwood and Dresden nuclear plants in Illinois at the time Sarah was diagnosed with brain cancer at age 7, almost eleven years ago. Sarah, her mother Cynthia, and her father, Joseph, an obstetrician, made presentations to the Committee during the course of the preparation of its report. Specifically, Dr. Sauer presented data to the committee on cancer rates in Illinois and near the two plants. Their statement is as follows:

“We are encouraged by the report and wish to thank the NAS panel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Jaczko and the NRC staff for their serious and stringent efforts in protecting the health of the people who live around nuclear facilities.

“Now, let us move forward with this study. We ask for the support of the NRC and the nuclear industry. If their statements that there is no harm or risk to the public and that nuclear is a safe and clean source of energy are truly accurate, then this study will only reinforce their position.

“If however, this study shows an increase in cancer risk to the public who live in the vicinity of these nuclear facilities, then this will warrant changes to the standards, regulations and operations related to these plants to minimize the risk to children and adults who live in the vicinity of these nuclear facilities.

“Sarah Sauer, pediatric brain cancer survivor, one of the statistics who will be part of the study, and her parents, Cynthia Sauer and Joseph Sauer, MD”

Dr. Sauer’s presentation to the committee on cancer data in Illinois and near the Dresden and Braidwood nuclear plants can be found at

http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/nrsb/miscellaneous/Sauer_morning_present.pdf.