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the Secretary of Energy, such adoption shall be deemed to satisfy all responsibilities of the Commission under NEPA and no further consideration under NEPA or this subpart shall be required.

(e) To the extent that it is not practicable, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, to adopt the environmental impact statement prepared by the Secretary of Energy, the presiding officer will:

(1) Determine whether the requirements of section 102(2) (A), (C), and (E) of NEPA and the regulations in this subpart have been met;

(2) Independently consider the final balance among conflicting factors contained in the record of the proceeding with a view to determining the appropriate action to be taken;

(3) Determine, after weighing the environmental, economic, technical and other benefits against environmental and other costs, whether the construction authorization or license should be issued, denied, or appropriately conditioned to protect environmental values;

(4) Determine, in an uncontested proceeding, whether the NEPA review conducted by the NRC staff has been adequate; and

(5) Determine, in a contested proceeding, whether in accordance with the regulations in this subpart, the construction authorization or license should be issued as proposed.

(f) In making the determinations described in paragraph (e), the environmental impact statement will be deemed modified to the extent that findings and conclusions differ from those in the final statement prepared by the Secretary of Energy, as it may have been supplemented. The initial decision will be distributed to any persons not otherwise entitled to receive it who responded to the request in the notice of docketing, as described in §51.26(c). If the Commission or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board reaches conclusions different from those of the presiding officer with respect to such matters, the final environmental impact statement will be deemed modified to that extent and the decision will be similarly distributed.

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(g) The provisions of this section shall be followed, in place of those set out in §51.104, in any proceedings for the issuance of a license to receive and possess source, special nuclear, and by-product material at a geologic repository operations area.

[54 FR 27870, July 3, 1989, as amended at 69 FR 2276, Jan. 14, 2004]

RULEMAKING

§51.110 [Reserved]

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AND ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

§51.116 Notice of intent.

(a) In accordance with §51.26, the appropriate NRC staff director will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of intent stating that an environmental impact statement will be prepared. The notice will contain the information specified in §51.27.

(b) Copies of the notice will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and Indian tribes, appropriate State, regional, and metropolitan clearinghouses and to interested persons upon request. A public announcement of the notice of intent will also be made.

§51.117 Draft environmental impact statement—notice of availability.

(a) Upon completion of a draft environmental impact statement or any supplement to a draft environmental impact statement, the appropriate NRC staff director will publish a notice of availability of the statement in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) The notice will request comments on the proposed action and on the draft statement or any supplement to the draft statement and will specify where comments should be submitted and when the comment period expires.

(c) The notice will (1) state that copies of the draft statement or any supplement to the draft statement are available for public inspection; (2) state where inspection may be made, and (3) state that any comments of Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian tribes or other interested persons will be made available for public inspection when received.

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(d) Copies of the notice will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and Indian tribes, appropriate State, regional, and metropolitan clearinghouses, and to interested persons upon request.

§ 51.118 Final environmental impact statement—notice of availability.

(a) Upon completion of a final environmental impact statement or any supplement to a final environmental impact statement, the appropriate NRC staff director will publish a notice of availability of the statement in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The notice will state that copies of the final statement or any supplement to the final statement are available for public inspection and where inspection may be made. Copies of the notice will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and Indian tribes, appropriate State, regional, and metropolitan clearinghouses and to interested persons upon request.

(b) Upon adoption of a final environmental impact statement or any supplement to a final environmental impact statement prepared by the Department of Energy with respect to a geologic repository that is subject to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, the appropriate NRC staff director shall follow the procedures set out in paragraph (a) of this section.

[49 FR 9381, Mar. 12, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 27871, July 3, 1989]

§ 51.119 Publication of finding of no significant impact; distribution.

(a) As required by § 51.35, the appropriate NRC staff director will publish the finding of no significant impact in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The finding of no significant impact will be identified as a draft or final finding, and will contain the information specified in §§ 51.32 or 51.33, as appropriate. A draft finding of no significant impact will include a request for comments which specifies where comments should be submitted and when the comment period expires.

(b) The finding will state that copies of the finding, the environmental assessment setting forth the basis for the finding and any related environmental documents are available for public in-

spection and where inspection may be made.

(c) A copy of a final finding will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and Indian tribes, appropriate State, regional, and metropolitan clearinghouses, the applicant or petitioner for rulemaking and any other party to the proceeding, and if a draft finding was issued, to each commenter. Additional copies will be made available in accordance with § 51.123.

§ 51.120 Availability of environmental documents for public inspection.

Copies of environmental reports, draft and final environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, and findings of no significant impact, together with any related comments and environmental documents, will be made available at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>, and/or at the NRC Public Document Room.

[64 FR 48952, Sept. 9, 1999]

§ 51.121 Status of NEPA actions.

Individuals or organizations desiring information on the NRC's NEPA process or on the status of specific NEPA actions should address inquiries to:

(a) *Utilization facilities*: ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation or Director, Office of New Reactors, as appropriate, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-1270, e-mail RidsNrrOd@nrc.gov.

(b) *Production facilities*: ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-7800, e-mail RidsNmssOd@nrc.gov.

(c) *Materials licenses*: ATTN: Document Control Desk, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-7800, e-mail RidsNmssOd@nrc.gov.

(d) *Rulemaking*: ATTN: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (800) 368-5642, e-mail NRCREP@nrc.gov.