

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** When the latest regulation for environmental qualification (EQ) of electric equipment, 10 CFR 50.49, was issued, it contained provisions that allowed licensees to meet different standards for qualification. In general, one standard required testing of electric equipment by exposing it to a harsh environment. The second standard required similar testing in addition to artificial radiation and thermal aging of equipment prior to LOCA testing. Although the first standard does not include consideration of the effects of aging, both standards include margin for operating temperature, radiation levels, and some physical damage mechanisms. It is believed that this margin compensates for any damage mechanisms which are not modelled precisely in the accelerated testing.

As a result of the staff's activities related to license renewal in the early 1990s, EQ was identified as an area that required further review. As discussed in SECY-93-049, a major concern related to EQ was whether the EQ requirements for older plants were adequate to support license renewal. Subsequently, the NRC staff concluded that differences in EQ requirements between older and newer plants constituted a potential generic issue which should be evaluated for backfit, independent of license renewal activities. Furthermore, recent test results raise questions with respect to the environmental qualification and accident performance capability of certain types of cables, and there have been some instances of cable failures as a result of exposure to high temperature and/or radiation during normal plant operation.

The NRC staff developed a task action plan (TAP) which has been designed to identify, evaluate and resolve EQ concerns. One item of the TAP was for the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research to develop and implement a research program which will focus on (1) data collection and analysis, and (2) technical issues. Since most of the electrical equipment in operating nuclear power plants can be replaced with relative ease except for cables, the research program was subsequently developed to focus on low-voltage I&C cables within the scope of 10 CFR 50.49.

For the data collection and analysis, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) was designated the lead laboratory to perform a literature review and establish an extensive database. The assessment of the literature has been completed and includes an analysis of available data, both domestic and foreign, to determine which EQ related technical issues can be resolved with existing information

and which will require further research. For those issues identified which require further research, testing of both naturally aged and artificially aged cable samples will be performed.

The primary objective of this research program is to answer EQ questions related to electrical cables based upon actual testing. The testing phase of the program will provide information to assess the effectiveness of condition monitoring (CM) methods to determine the extent of degradation, if any, of qualified low voltage instrumentation and control (I&C) cables within the scope of 10 CFR 50.49, and evaluate the adequacy of accelerated aging techniques in the environmental qualification process.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for licensees and the public to provide input on the issues identified for further research, and the research to be performed. A transcript of this meeting will be available for inspection, and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Lower Level, Washington, DC 20555, on or about September 2, 1996.

The meeting will be open to the public, and the public will be provided opportunities throughout the workshop to comment on the issues under discussion.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland on this 15th day of July, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Lawrence C. Shao,  
*Director, Division of Engineering Technology,  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 96-18371 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

### **Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension: Rule 15g-2; SEC File No. 270-381; OMB Control No. 3235-0434

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget requests for approval of extension on the following rule:

Rule 15g-2 requires broker-dealers to provide their customers with a risk disclosure document, as set forth in

Schedule 15G,<sup>1</sup> prior to their first non-exempt transaction in a "penny stock." The rule requires broker-dealers to obtain written acknowledgement from the customer that he or she has received the required risk disclosure document. The rule also requires broker-dealers to maintain a copy of the customer's written acknowledgment for at least three years following the date on which the risk disclosure document was provided to the customer, the first two years in an accessible place.

Approximately 270 broker-dealers are subject to Rule 15g-2, and each one of these firms will process an average of approximately 156 risk disclosure documents per year. The total ongoing respondent burden is approximately 4 minutes per response, or an aggregate total of 624 minutes per respondent. Since there are 270 respondents, the annual burden 2808 hours.

In addition, 270 broker-dealers will incur a recordkeeping burden of approximately one minute per response. Thus, respondents as a group will incur an aggregate annual recordkeeping burden of 702 hours. The total annual hour burden is 3510 hours.

The total cost of ongoing compliance for the respondents and recordkeepers is \$70,200.

General comments regarding the estimated burden hours should be directed to the Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission at the address below. Any comments concerning the accuracy of the estimated average burden hours for compliance with Commission rules and forms should be directed to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549 and Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: July 10, 1996.  
Margaret H. McFarland,  
*Deputy Secretary.*  
[FR Doc. 96-18298 Filed 7-18-96; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8010-01-M**

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 15G explains the risks of investing in penny stocks; important concepts associated with the penny stock market; the broker-dealer's duties to customers; a toll-free telephone number through which a customer may inquire about the disciplinary history of a broker-dealer; the customer's rights and remedies in cases of fraud or abuse in connection with transactions in penny stocks; and certain other significant information.