

the proposed plan approval. (60 Fed. Reg. 55,069.) On November 30, 1995, the Citizens Awareness Network, Inc. (CAN), and the New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution (NECNP) filed a timely petition to intervene. With their hearing request, the petitioners submitted five contentions challenging the proposed approval of YAEC's decommissioning plan based, among other things, on alleged noncompliance with (1) agency standards regarding maintaining radiation doses as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA), and (2) the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968 (NEPA).

In a January 16, 1996 memorandum and order, the Commission referred the petitioners' hearing request to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel for the appointment of a presiding officer to conduct any necessary proceedings. (See CLI-96-1, 43 NRC 1 (1996).) On January 18, 1996, the Chief Administrative Judge of the Panel appointed this Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to act on the Commission's referral. (61 Fed. Reg. 1953.) The Board consists of Dr. Jerry R. Kline, Dr. Thomas S. Elleman, and G. Paul Bollwerk, III, who serves as Chairman of the Board.

After receiving additional filings from the participants on the issues of the petitioners' standing and the admissibility of their five contentions, on February 21, 1996, the Board held a prehearing conference during which the parties made further presentations addressing those matters. On March 1, 1996, the Board dismissed the petitioners' intervention request, ruling that although the petitioners had established their standing to intervene, they had failed to present a litigable contention. (See LBP-96-2, 43 NRC 61 (1996)).

The petitioners appealed the Board's decision. In CLI-96-7, 43 NRC ____ (June 18, 1996), the Commission affirmed the Board's determinations regarding the petitioners' standing and the admissibility of their contentions based on the information then before the Board. The Commission, however, remanded to the Board a so-called "new dose argument" that the petitioners submitted to the Commission shortly after the Board's dismissal ruling. In making that referral, the Commission directed the Board to determine if the "new dose argument" met the agency's procedural standards governing "late filing" and the admissibility of contentions so as to warrant consideration in an adjudicatory hearing.

After receiving additional party filings and conducting another prehearing conference on July 16, 1996, the Board issued an additional ruling on the petitioners' hearing request. In its July 31, 1996 decision, the Board held that (1) dismissal of the petitioners' "new dose argument" as untimely was not warranted under a balancing of the five factors governing "late filing," and (2) elements of the "new dose argument" provided a sufficient basis for the admission of a contention concerning YAEC decommissioning plan compliance with ALARA principles and NEPA requirements. The Board thus granted the petitioners' hearing request.

Please take notice that a hearing will be conducted in this proceeding. This hearing will be governed by the formal hearing procedures set forth in 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart G (10 CFR §§ 2.700-.790).

During the course of the proceeding, the Board may conduct an oral argument, as provided in 10 CFR § 2.755, and may hold additional prehearing conferences pursuant to 10 CFR § 2.752. The public is invited to attend any oral argument, prehearing conference, or evidentiary hearing, which may be held pursuant to 10 CFR §§ 2.750-.751. In its July 31, 1996 decision, the Board established a schedule that provides for holding some such sessions. (See LBP-96-15, 44 NRC at ____ (slip op. app. at 1-3).) Notices of those sessions will be published in the Federal Register and/or made available to the public at the NRC Public Document Rooms.

In accordance with 10 CFR § 2.715(a), any person not a party to the proceeding may submit a written limited appearance statement setting forth his or her position on the issues in this proceeding. These statements do not constitute evidence, but may assist the Board and/or parties in the definition of the issues being considered. Persons wishing to submit a written limited appearance statement should send it to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch. A copy of the statement also should be served on the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The Board will decide at a later date whether to entertain oral limited appearance statements.

Documents relating to this proceeding are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the German Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555; and at the NRC Local Public Document Room at Greenfield Community College, 1

College Drive, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301.

Dated: August 5, 1996.

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

G. Paul Bollwerk III, Chairman,
Administrative Judge.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Review of an Expired Information Collection SF 15

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management (OPM).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (title 44, U.S. Code, chapter 35), this notice announces a proposed unchanged extension to a form which collects information from the public. Standard Form 15, Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference, is completed by individuals applying for Federal jobs and who wish to apply for an additional 10 points of examination credit based on his/her military service or that of a spouse or child. OPM examining offices and agency appointing officials use the information provided to adjudicate the individual's claim in accordance with the Veteran Preference Act of 1944, as amended. Approximately 23,700 respondents annually expend 5,017 burden hours to complete the SF-15. For copies of this proposal, contact Jim Farron on (202) 418-3208, or E-Mail to jmfarron@mail.opm.gov

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 8, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver written comments to Mary Lou Lindholm, Associate Director for Employment Service, Office of Personnel Management, Room 6F08, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raleigh Neville or Karen Jacobs on (202) 606-0830, TDD (202) 606-0023, or FAX (202) 606-2329.

Office of Personnel Management.

Lorraine A. Green,

Deputy Director.

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