

# Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

#### 7 CFR Part 1710

RIN 0572-AB30

#### Pre-Loan Procedures for Electric Loans

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is proposing a minor amendment to its pre-loan procedures that will clarify that use of a conventional utility indenture as a security instrument for loans to power supply borrowers is permissible. This amendment will give these borrowers and RUS the flexibility to address the complex issues surrounding power supply loans in the rapidly changing electric industry. The rule will also enhance loan security and, by conforming more closely to private lending practice, allow easier access to private sector financing.

In the final rules section of this Federal Register, RUS is publishing this action as a direct final rule without prior proposal because RUS views this as a noncontroversial action and anticipates no adverse comments. If no adverse comments are received in response to the direct final rule, no further action will be taken on this proposed rule and the action will become effective at the time specified in the direct final rule. If RUS receives adverse comments, a document will be published withdrawing the effective date of the direct final rule and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposed action must be received March 24, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to F. Lamont Heppie, Jr., Director, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities

Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2230-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. RUS requires, in hard copy, a signed original and 3 copies of all comments (7 CFR 1700.30(e)). Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at Room 4034, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (7 CFR part 1.27(b)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** F. Lamont Heppie, Jr., Director, Program Support and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 2230-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 1522, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: 202-720-0736. FAX: 202-720-4120. E-mail: fheppie@rus.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** See the Supplementary Information provided in the direct final rule located in the final rules section of this Federal Register for the applicable supplementary information on this action.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*

Dated: February 10, 1997.

Jill Long Thompson,

*Under Secretary, Rural Development.*

[FR Doc. 97-3991 Filed 2-19-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-15-P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### 10 CFR Part 73

RIN 3150-AF53

#### Changes to Nuclear Power Plant Security Requirements

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to revise its regulations to delete certain security requirements associated with an internal threat. This action follows reconsideration by the NRC of nuclear power plant physical security requirements to identify those requirements that are marginal to safety, redundant, or no longer effective. This action would reduce the regulatory burden on licensees without compromising physical protection

against radiological sabotage required for public health and safety.

**DATES:** Submit comments by May 6, 1997. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

Deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 am and 4:15 pm on Federal workdays.

For information on submitting comments electronically, see the discussion under Electronic Access in the Supplementary Information Section.

Certain documents related to this rulemaking, including comments received, may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC. These same documents may also be viewed and downloaded electronically via the Electronic Bulletin Board established by NRC for this rulemaking as discussed under Electronic Access in the Supplementary Information Section.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Sandra Frattali, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6261, e-mail sdf@nrc.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

In a memorandum dated September 3, 1991 (COMFR-91-005), the Commission requested the NRC staff to re-examine the security requirements associated with an internal threat to nuclear power plants that are contained in 10 CFR Part 73, "Physical Protection of Plants and Materials." The NRC staff completed its re-examination and recommended some changes in 10 CFR Part 73 to the Commission (SECY-92-272, August 4, 1992). In a Staff Requirements Memorandum dated November 5, 1992, the Commission directed the NRC staff to work with the Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) now known as the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Following three public meetings with NUMARC, the NRC staff recommended to the Commission (SECY-93-326, December 2, 1993) additional changes to