

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

**ACTION:** Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to OMB and solicitation of public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. *The title of the information collection:* 10 CFR Part 72, Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste.

2. *Current OMB Approval Number:* 3150-0132.

3. *How often the collection is required:* Required reports are collected and evaluated on a continuing basis as events occur. Applications for new licenses and amendments may be submitted at any time. Applications for renewal of licenses would be required every 20 years for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and every 40 years for a Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) facility.

4. *Who is required or asked to report:* Vendors of casks for the storage of spent fuel, licensees and applicants for a license to possess power reactor spent fuel and other radioactive materials associated with spent fuel storage in an ISFSI, and the Department of Energy for licenses to receive, transfer, package and possess power reactor spent fuel, high-level waste, and other radioactive materials associated with spent fuel and high-level waste storage in an MRS.

5. *The number of annual responses:* 92.

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 21,529 (an average of approximately 167 hours per response for applications and reports, plus approximately 765 hours annually per recordkeeper).

7. *Abstract:* 10 CFR Part 72 establishes requirements, procedures, and criteria for the issuance of licenses to receive, transfer, and possess power reactor spent fuel and other radioactive materials associated with spent fuel storage in an ISFSI, and requirements for the issuance of licenses to the

Department of Energy to receive, transfer, package, and possess power reactor spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and other associated radioactive materials, in an MRS. The information in the applications, reports and records is used by NRC to make licensing and other regulatory determinations. The revised estimate of burden reflects an increase primarily because of the addition of requirements for decommissioning funding requirements, financial assurance provisions, documentation additions for decommissioning and license termination, and notification of incidents.

Submit, by January, 1999, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?

2. Is the burden estimate accurate?

3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, (Lower Level), Washington, DC. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NEWS/OMB/index.html>) under the FedWorld collection link on the home page tool bar. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T-6 F33, Washington, DC, 20555-0001, or by telephone at (301) 415-7233, or by Internet electronic mail at [BJS1@NRC.GOV](mailto:BJS1@NRC.GOV).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of November 1998.

For the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Brenda Jo. Shelton,**

*NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499]

**Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al. (South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2); Order Approving Application Regarding Proposed Corporate Merger of Central and South West Corporation and American Electric Power Company, Inc.**

**I**

Houston Lighting & Power Company; City Public Service Board of San Antonio; Central Power and Light Company (CPL); City of Austin, Texas; and STP Nuclear Operating Company are holders of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80, issued on March 22, 1988, and March 28, 1989, respectively. Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80 authorize the holders to possess the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (STP), and authorize STP Nuclear Operating Company to use and operate STP in accordance with the procedures and limitations set forth in the operating licenses. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Licenses Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80 on March 22, 1988, and March 28, 1989, respectively, pursuant to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 50). The facility is located in Matagorda County, Texas.

**II**

Under cover of a letter dated June 19, 1998, CPL submitted an application dated June 16, 1998, for consent under 10 CFR 50.80 to allow the indirect transfer of CPL's interest in STP that would occur in connection with a proposed merger of Central and South West Corporation (CSW, the parent holding company of CPL) and American Electric Power, Inc. (AEP). Under the proposed merger, CSW would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of AEP, with CPL remaining a wholly-owned subsidiary of CSW. Houston Lighting & Power Company; City Public Service Board of San Antonio; City of Austin, Texas; and STP Nuclear Operating Company are not involved in the merger. The application was supplemented by a letter dated June 23, 1998, and enclosures thereto.

CPL and the other current licensees would continue to hold the licenses, and no direct transfer of the licenses would result from the merger. On August 5, 1998, a Notice of Consideration of Approval of Application Regarding Proposed Merger was published in the **Federal Register**