

In Fall 1997, the survey achieved a total response rate of 98.5% for institutions and 98.3% for departments.

*Estimate of Burden:* Burden estimates are as follows:

	Total number of institutions	Departments	Burden hours
FY 1995	722	11,598	1.87
FY 1996	722	11,592	1.95
FY 1997	723	11,597	2.23

*Respondents:* Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 11,597 (from the 1997 collection).

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 23,690.

*Frequency of Responses:* Annually.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: May 28, 1999.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**

*Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-14035 Filed 6-2-99; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-27]

### BWX Technologies (BWXT), Lynchburg, VA Issuance of Environmental Assessment Regarding the Proposed Exemption From the Requirement in 10 CFR 70.25(e) To Provide a Decommissioning Cost Estimate

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to BWXT (the applicant) from the requirement of 10 CFR Part 70.25(e) to provide a decommissioning cost estimate (DCE) for the Naval Reactors (NR) work at BWXT. The BWXT facilities and operation are located at Lynchburg, Virginia.

## Environmental Assessment

*Identification of the Proposed Action:* By letter dated April 8, 1999, and supplements dated May 10 and May 13, 1999, BWXT (the applicant) requested Materials License SNM-42 be amended to grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR Part 70.25(e) to provide a decommissioning cost estimate (DCE) for the Naval Reactors (NR) programs at BWXT, located at Lynchburg, Virginia. In a letter dated April 9, 1999, from the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of NR, NR supported BWXT's request for an exemption.

*Need for the Proposed Action:* The BWXT operation involves the manufacturing of nuclear fuels for the U. S. Navy program. When BWXT's operations cease, the NRC will require decommissioning of the facilities and land in accordance with the requirements specified in 10 CFR 70.25. As described in the applicant's license amendment request and the NR April 9, 1999, letter, the exemption is requested in order to eliminate the need to prepare a detailed decommissioning cost estimate to be filed together with the Statement of Intent that the Federal government will be responsible for the cost of decommissioning. The following information, as detailed in the applicant's request and NR's letter, provide support for the exemption request: (1) The DOE, through NR, is contractually obligated to pay the expenses eventually incurred by BWXT in decommissioning the BWXT facilities associated with NR work; (2) NR has an adequate understanding of the potential costs of decommissioning the BWXT facilities used in NR work; (3) a detailed DCE prepared now will not be valid when decommissioning occurs many years from now; (4) exempting BWXT at this time from the requirement for a DCE would not endanger life or property or the common defense and security; and (5) the Federal Government will not obtain a benefit commensurate with the expenditure of public funds to prepare a detailed DCE.

*Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:* The NRC staff has examined the applicant's proposed exemption request and concluded that the proposed exemption request is procedural and administrative in nature. Since the Federal Government will be responsible for the ultimate financial cost in the decommissioning of the applicant's facilities, exempting BWXT at this time from the requirement for a DCE will not endanger life or property, or the common defense and security,

and will not cause any environmental impact.

*Alternatives to the Proposed Action:* Since there is no environmental impact associated with this proposed action, no alternatives other than the proposed action were evaluated.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted:* No other agency or persons were consulted for this proposed action since the proposed action is procedural and administrative in nature and the final financial cost for the decommissioning of the applicant's facilities is assured by the Federal Government.

## Finding of No Significant Impact

As discussed above, the proposed action is procedural and administrative in nature and there is no environmental impact associated with this action. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

This application for the proposed action was docketed under 10 CFR part 70, Docket No. 70-27. For further details with respect to this action, see the April 8, 1999, exemption request, and other above-mentioned letters which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of May 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Theodore S. Sherr,**

*Chief, Licensing and International Safeguards Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 99-14049 Filed 6-2-99; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 110th meeting on June 28-30, 1999, at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, Building 189, San Antonio, Texas.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

*Monday, June 28, 1999—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.*

*Tuesday, June 29, 1999—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.*

*Wednesday, June 30, 1999—8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.*