

being processed separately. The proposed amendment would revise the P-T limits of TS 3.4.4 for V.C. Summer related to the heatup, cooldown, and inservice test limitations for the Reactor Coolant System to a maximum of 33 Effective Full Power Years (EFPY). It will also revise TS 3/4/4.9, Low Temperature Overpressure Protection System, to reflect the revised P-T limits of the reactor vessel.

#### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

During staff review of this submittal, the staff determined that granting of an exemption for ASME Code Case N-640 is needed to revise the method used to determine the RCS P-T limits, since continued use of the present curves unnecessarily restricts the P-T operating window. Application of the Code case will, therefore, relax the LTOP operating window and reduce potential challenges to the reactor coolant system power-operated relief valves.

In the associated exemption, the staff has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the underlying purpose of the regulation will continue to be served by the implementation of this Code case.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the exemption described above would provide an adequate margin of safety against brittle failure of the V.C. Summer reactor vessel.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological environmental impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

#### *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the

proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

#### *Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station, dated May 1981.

#### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 15, 1999, the staff consulted with the South Carolina State official, Mr. Virgil Autry of the Division of Radioactive Waste Management, Bureau of Land and Waste Management, Department of Health and Environmental Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 19, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at Fairfield County Library, 300 Washington Street, Winnsboro, South Carolina.

Dated at Rockville, Md., this 15th day of October 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Richard L. Emch, Jr.,**

*Section Chief, Section 1, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WO-320-1990-02 24 1A]

#### **Extension of Currently Approved Information Collection, OMB Control No. 1004-0176**

**SUMMARY:** Per the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces its intention to request extension of approval to collect certain information from claimants and operators of potential mine sites on federal lands. The information requirements covered by this information collection are those connected with filing notices of intent to conduct mining operation and plans of operation for hardrock minerals located under the General Mining Law of 1872.

**DATES:** Submit comments on the proposed information collection by December 20, 1999, to receive full consideration before BLM submits the information collection package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**ADDRESSES:** You may: (1) Mail comments to: Regulatory Affairs Group (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St., N.W., Mail Stop 401 LS, Washington, D.C. 20240; (2) send comments via the Internet to: [WOComment@blm.gov](mailto:WOComment@blm.gov); or (3) hand-deliver comments to: Bureau of Land Management Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

If you send comments via the Internet, please include "Attn.: 1004-0176" and your name and return address in your message.

Comments will be available for public review at the L Street address during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:15 pm), Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard E. Deery, Solid Minerals Group, (202) 452-9353.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) require BLM to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning a proposed collection of information to solicit comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c)

ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; 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. BLM will analyze any comments sent in response to this notice and include them with its request for extension of approval from OMB under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

In 1980 the BLM published two final rules to establish procedures for managing activities related to prospecting, exploration, mining, and processing on lands subject to the operation of the mining law. These regulations occur at 43 CFR 3802 and 3809 and are referred to collectively as the "surface management" regulations by BLM and the public. Under the terms of the regulations, anyone planning to conduct activities on the public lands under the mining law must submit various types of information to BLM to obtain or keep a benefit. Depending on the lands involved in the activity, the information is contained in either a Notice (43 CFR 3809.1-3) or a Plan of Operations (43 CFR 3809.1-4 and 3809.1-5).

The types of information generally contained within each type of response include: (1) The claimant/operator's name, address, and phone number; (2) the activity's location; (3) when available, the mining claim recordation numbers; (4) a description of the methods and equipment to be employed during the operation; (5) a description of the proposed activity sufficient to locate it on the ground; (6) a description of reclamation and mitigation measures to be employed to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation; and (7) a description of measures to be taken during periods of non-operation.

BLM is not the only approving party in the process of conducting mineral development on public lands. Before the surface management regulations were promulgated, the western states developed their own programs. In recognition of these programs, the regulations at 43 CFR 3809.3-1(a) explicitly rejected a federal preemption of state law and at 43 CFR 3809.3-1(c) allowed for the creation, by memoranda of agreement, of joint federal/state programs for administering and enforcing the regulations. The regulations at 43 CFR 3809.2-2 require claimants/operators to comply with "pertinent federal and state laws." The language acknowledges the large array of federal, state, and local requirements

placed on operators by environmental laws and state mining and reclamation laws and regulations.

Submitting all information described in the last two paragraphs is required to obtain and keep a benefit, the use of federal lands to develop federally owned mineral resources pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

BLM estimates that the annual number of respondents is 1,300 and that the total annual burden hours is 25,960. This number is based on an estimated 1,150 notices and 150 plans of operation being filed each year. Estimated burden hours are an average of 16 hours per notice and an average of 32 hours for each plan of operation. BLM is currently reviewing these estimates per the public comments received on the information collection package that it filed in connection with the proposed 3809 regulations. These comments indicated a need to review the burden estimate for plans of operation to determine whether it reflected the actual resources (money, personnel, and time) spent in collecting or compiling the needed information. They also indicated that BLM's information burden was by far larger than the information burden imposed by other federal, state, and local authorities.

To assist us in reviewing the burden estimate for plans of operation, please provide information about the following:

(1) An estimate of the information burden imposed by federal, state, and local authorities other than BLM. A list of the major federal, state, and local permits required for mining operations would be helpful for this purpose; and

(2) An estimate of the information burden imposed by BLM for environmental analysis purposes, whether environmental assessments or environmental impact statements.

BLM will summarize all responses to this notice and include them in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 13, 1999.

**Carole J. Smith,**

*Bureau of Land Management, Information Clearance Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[NV-030-1492-00]

#### Notice of Availability and Extension of Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City and Battle Mountain, Nevada Field Offices and Department of the Navy, Naval Air Station, Fallon, NV

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior and Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada, Department of the Navy.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Yomba Shoshone Tribe, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Eureka, Lander, and Churchill County Commissions, and Kingston Town Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and extension of comment period of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Naval Air Station Fallon's proposed Fallon Range Training Complex Requirements.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 40 CFR 1500-1508 Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ), notice is given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City and Battle Mountain, Nevada Field Offices and the Department of the Navy (Navy) Naval Air Station Fallon have jointly prepared, with the assistance of a third-party consultant, a Draft EIS on the proposed Fallon Range Training Complex Requirements, and has made the document available for public and agency review. The original Notice of Availability was published by the Environmental Protection Agency and the BLM in the **Federal Register** on August 13, 1999 and provided for a 60-day comment period with comments due on October 13, 1999. Five public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS were conducted in Eureka, Austin, Gabbs, Fallon, and Reno, NV in September, 1999.

**DATES:** Comments will be accepted until November 12, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn: Terri Knutson, Project Manager. Comments may also be sent via