

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Regarding the fabrication exemption, the Environmental Assessment for the final rule, "Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites" (55 FR 29181 (1990)), considered the potential environmental impacts of overpacks which are used to store spent nuclear fuel under a CoC and concluded that there would be no significant environmental impacts. The proposed action now under consideration would not permit use of the overpacks, but would only permit fabrication. There are no radiological environmental impacts from fabrication since overpack fabrication does not involve radioactive materials. The major non-radiological environmental impacts involve use of natural resources due to overpack fabrication. Each HI-STORM 100 overpack weighs approximately 100 tons and is constructed of metal and concrete. The HI-TRAC 100 transfer cask weighs approximately 125 tons and is made of structural steel and lead. The amount of materials required to fabricate these components is expected to have very little impact on the associated industry. Fabrication of the metal components would be at a metal fabrication facility, while fabrication of the concrete overpacks would be partially fabricated at the same metal fabrication facility, with only the concrete pours being done at Dresden. The metal and concrete used in the fabrication of these components is insignificant compared to the amount of metal and concrete fabrication performed annually in the United States. If the components are not usable, the components could be disposed of or recycled. The amount of metal and concrete disposed of is insignificant compared to the amount of metal and concrete that is disposed of annually in the United States. Based upon this information, the fabrication of these components will have no significant impact on the environment since no radioactive materials are involved, and the amount of natural resources used is minimal.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed actions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact are not evaluated. The alternative to the proposed actions would be to deny approval of the exemption and, therefore, not allow fabrication until a CoC is issued. This

alternative would have the same environmental impact.

Given that there are no significant differences in environmental impact between the proposed action and the alternative considered and that the applicant has a legitimate need to fabricate the components prior to certification and is willing to assume the risk that any fabricated components may not be approved or may require modification, the Commission concludes that the preferred alternative is to grant the exemption from the prohibition on fabrication prior to receipt of a CoC.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

Mr. F. Niziolek, Reactor Safety Section Head, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, was contacted about the Environmental Assessment for the proposed action and had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51. Based upon the foregoing Environmental Assessment, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.234(c) so that Holtec may fabricate four HI-STORM 100 overpacks and one HI-TRAC-100 transfer cask prior to issuance of a CoC will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

The request for the exemption from 10 CFR 72.234(c) was filed on November 15, 1999. For further details with respect to this action, see the application for CoC for the HI-STORM 100 cask system, dated October 26, 1995. On July 30, 1999, a preliminary Safety Evaluation Report and a proposed CoC for the HI-STORM 100 cask system were issued by the NRC staff to initiate the rulemaking process. The exemption request and CoC application are docketed under 10 CFR Part 72, Docket 72-1014. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

E. William Brach,

Director Spent Fuel Project, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 00-1173 Filed 1-18-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Experts' Meeting on High-Burnup Fuel Behavior Under Postulated Accident Conditions

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting to develop Phenomena Identification and Ranking Tables (PIRTs). PIRTs have been used at NRC since 1988, and they provide a structured way to obtain a technical understanding that is needed to address certain issues. About twenty of the world's best technical experts are participating in this activity, and the experts represent a balance between industry, universities, foreign researchers, and regulatory organizations. The current PIRT activity is addressing a postulated BWR accident wherein power oscillations occur, the reactor fails to scram, and the oscillations then reach sufficient magnitude that fuel failure may occur before the emergency operating procedures are able to terminate the oscillations and shut the reactor down.

DATES: February 8-10, 2000, 8:30 am-5:30 pm.

ADDRESSES: Room T10A1 (TWFN) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ralph Meyer, SMSAB, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6789.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting agenda will be posted on the NRC Web site at www.nrc.gov/RES/meetings.html by February 1, 2000. The meeting is open to the public. Attendees will need to obtain a visitor badge at the TWFN building lobby.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Charles E. Rossi,

Director, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 00-1176 Filed 1-18-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of January 17, 24, 31, and February 7, 2000. P=’02’≤

PLACE: Commissioners’ Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. P=’02’≤

STATUS: Public and Closed. P=’02’≤

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of January 17

Wednesday, January 19

8:30 a.m.—Discussion of Intragovernmental Issues (Closed—Ex. 9)

9:30 a.m.—Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2 & 6)

Thursday, January 20

9:55 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

10:00 a.m.—Briefing on Status of CIO Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Donnie Grimsley, 301-415-8702)

Friday, January 21

9:00 a.m.—Briefing on Native American, State of Nevada, and Affected Units of Local Governments Representatives Responses to DOE’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Proposed HLW Geologic Repository (Public Meeting)

Week of January 24 Tentative

Tuesday, January 25

9:00 a.m.—Briefing on NRC Staff’s Response to DOE’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Proposed HLW Geologic Repository (Public Meeting)

Wednesday, January 26

9:25 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

10:00 a.m.—Briefing on Status of NMSS Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Claudia Seelig, 301-415-7243)

Week of January 31—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of January 31.

Week of February 7—Tentative

Wednesday, February 9

10:00 a.m.—Briefing on Status of Research Programs, Performance, and Plans (Including Status of Thermo-Hydraulics) (Public Meeting)

Thursday, February 10

9:25 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Status of CFO Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting)

Friday, February 11

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Status of Spent Fuel Projects (Public Meeting)

The schedule for commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording) (301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: By a vote of 5–0 on January 10, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission’s rules that “Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2)” be held on January 10, and on less than one week’s notice to the public.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: January 14, 2000.

William M. Hill, Jr.,
SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-1339 Filed 1-14-00; 2:16 pm]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Data Collection Available for Public Comment and Recommendations.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments Are Invited On

(a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB’s estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

Employer’s Deemed Service Month Questionnaire; OMB 3220-0156

Section 3(i) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), as amended by Pub. L. 98-76, provides that the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), under certain circumstances, may deem additional months of service in cases where an employee does not actually work in every month of the year, provided the employee satisfies certain eligibility requirements, including the existence of an employment relation between the employee and his or her employer. The procedures pertaining to the deeming of additional months of service are found in the RRB’s regulations at 20 CFR part 210, Creditable Railroad Service.

The RRB utilizes Form GL-99, Employers Deemed Service Month Questionnaire, to obtain service and compensation information from railroad employers needed to determine if an employee can be credited with additional deemed months of railroad service. Completion is mandatory. One response is required for each RRB inquiry.

No changes are proposed to Form GL-99. The completion time for Form GL-99 is estimated at 2 minutes per response. The RRB estimates that approximately 4,000 response are received annually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363. Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer,

[FR Doc. 00-1203 Filed 1-18-00; 8:45am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data