

comment on its draft FY 2000–2005 Strategic Plan which provides a blueprint for the NRC to plan, implement, and monitor work needed to achieve its goals. The Commission will consider public comments in approving the final FY 2000–2005 Strategic Plan.

DATE: Submit comments on the draft strategic plan by April 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Mail Stop: T6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

The draft Strategic Plan, as well as the ability to provide comments electronically, are available on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/planning.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daryl Kade, Mail Stop: T9D24, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Telephone: (301) 415–7326; FAX: (301) 415–5386; Internet: DWK@NRC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NRC issued its first Strategic Plan in September 1997, and is required to update it every three years. The NRC's draft FY 2000–2005 Strategic Plan, which has not yet been approved by the Commission, describes the agency's strategic goals, performance goals, and strategies for achieving NRC's mission. It is organized into four strategic arenas: (1) Nuclear Reactor Safety; (2) Nuclear Materials Safety; (3) Nuclear Waste Safety; and (4) International Nuclear Safety Support. To help accomplish agency goals, the NRC has established overarching corporate management strategies which are also described in the draft plan. A summary is provided in Part 1 with more details, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act, provided in Part 2.

Embodied in the plan is the NRC's understanding that decisions must be based first and foremost on their contributions to public health and safety. In addition, the NRC must also consider the effect of its decisions on the public it protects, on the industries it regulates, and on the effectiveness and efficiency of internal NRC operations.

The current plan is based more on performance and the outcomes the NRC intends to achieve. It addresses concerns and comments raised in Congressional hearings, as well as in meetings with members of the public and stakeholders who would be most affected by NRC decisions. Also, the plan captures recent regulatory reform and their outcomes in the long term.

Stakeholder Input to the Strategic Plan

NRC recognizes that work on the Strategic Plan is unfinished and that stakeholder input will further improve the draft plan. Stakeholder input is requested on the draft plan, particularly on the following areas:

- Do goals address appropriate areas?
- Are the strategies to achieve the goals adequate?
- Will performance measures indicate whether we are achieving our goals? In particular, we are seeking comment on those measures where specific metrics have yet to be proposed.
- Do goals and strategies reflect NRC's commitment to institutionalize change?
- Do external factors identify those conditions or circumstances which significantly affect the achievement of our goals?
- Is the strategic plan too lengthy? Is the level of detail sufficient?

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of February, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jesse L. Funches,
Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–5153 Filed 3–2–00; 8:45 am]

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PEACE CORPS

Information Collection Requests Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Peace Corps.

ACTION: Notice of public use form review request to the Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMARY: The Associate Director for Management invites comments on information collection requests as required pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). This notice announces that the Peace Corps has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget an emergency request to approve the use of the Peace Corps/Crisis Corps Volunteer Application Form (0420–0533) by May 2, 2000. Additionally, the Peace Corps will be seeking three year OMB approval using the standard review procedures. A copy of the information collection may be obtained from Joan Timoney, Director of the Crisis Corps, Peace Corps, 1111 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20526. Ms. Timoney may be contacted by telephone at 202–692–2250. The Peace Corps invites comments on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the Peace Corps, including whether

the information will have practical use; 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; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and, ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology. Comments on these forms should be addressed to Desk Officer for the Peace Corps, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

Michael J. Kole,

Director of Administrative Services.

[FR Doc. 00–4546 Filed 3–2–00; 8:45 am]

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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 collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) 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: Voluntary Customer Surveys in Accordance with Executive Order 12862, OMB 3220–0192. In accordance with Executive Order 12862, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) conducts a number of customer surveys designed to determine the kinds and quality of services our beneficiaries, claimants, employers and members of the public want and expect, as well as their satisfaction with existing RRB services. The information collected is used by RRB management to monitor customer satisfaction by determining to what extent services are satisfactory and

where and to what extent services can be improved. The surveys are limited to data collections that solicit strictly voluntary opinions, and do not collect information which is required or regulated.

The information collection, which was first approved by the Office Management and Budget (OMB) in 1997, provides the RRB with a generic clearance authority. This generic authority allows the RRB to submit a variety of new or revised customer survey instruments (needed to timely implement customer monitoring activities) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for expedited review and approval.

The average burden per response for current customer satisfaction activities is estimated to range from 2 minutes for a web-site questionnaire to 2 hours for participation in a focus group. The RRB estimates current annual burden of 2,050 annual respondents totaling 727 hours or annual burden for the generic customer survey clearance.

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 Office 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. 00-5114 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-27141]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

February 25, 2000.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendment(s) is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Branch of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by March 21, 2000, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549-0609, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in the case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of facts or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After March 21, 2000, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

American Electric Power Company, Inc., et al. (70-8779)

American Electric Power Company, Inc. ("AEP"), a registered holding company, American Electric Power Service Corporation, a wholly owned nonutility subsidiary of AEP, both of 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215, and AEP's seven wholly owned electric utility subsidiary companies, Appalachian Power Company, 40 Franklin Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24022, Columbus Southern Power Company, 215 North Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Indiana Michigan Power Company, One Summit Square, Fort Wayne Indiana 46801, Kentucky Power Company, 1701 Central Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky 41101, Kingsport Power Company, 422 Broad Street, Kingsport, Tennessee 37660, Ohio Power Company, 339 Cleveland Avenue, SW., Canton, Ohio 44702, and Wheeling Power Company, 51 Sixteenth St., Wheeling, West Virginia 26003, have filed a post-effective amendment under sections 6(a), 7, and 12(b) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act, as amended ("Act"), and rules 45 and 54 under the Act, to their application-declaration filed under sections 6(a), 7, 9(a), 10, 12(b), and 13 of the Act and rules 45, 90, and 91 under the Act.

By orders dated September 13, 1996 (HCAR No. 26572), September 27, 1996 (HCAR No. 26583), May 2, 1997 (HCAR No. 26713) ("May Order"), November 30, 1998 (HCAR No. 26947), and April 7 1999 (HCAR No. 26998), AEP was authorized to form direct and indirect nonutility subsidiaries ("New Subsidiaries") to broker and market electric power, natural and manufactured gas, emission allowances, coal, oil, refined petroleum products and natural gas liquids. The

Commission also authorized AEP to guarantee through December 31, 2002 up to \$200 million of debt and up to \$200 million of other obligations of such subsidiaries ("Guarantee Authority"). In the May Order, the Guarantee Authority was expanded to permit AEP to guarantee the debt and other obligations of any subsidiary acquired or established under Rule 58.

Applicants now propose to extend the period of the Guarantee Authority through June 30, 2004. Applicants also propose to increase the Guarantee Authority up to \$600 million of debt and up to \$600 million of other obligations under the terms and conditions stated in the Prior Orders. Applicants state that this increase in its Guarantee Authority is necessary because AEP is active in the development and expansion of its energy-related non-utility businesses.

Metropolitan Edison Company, et al. (70-593)

Metropolitan Edison Company ("Met-Ed") and Pennsylvania Electric Company ("Penelec") ("Subsidiaries"), both public utility subsidiaries of GPU, Inc. ("GPU"), a registered holding company, and both located at 2800 Pottsville Pike, Reading, Pennsylvania 19640, have filed a declaration under Section 12(c) of the Act and rules 46 and 54 under the Act.

As part of electric utility restructuring in Pennsylvania, the Subsidiaries have sold substantially all of its fossil and hydroelectric generating assets ("Generation Assets") and now wish to return to GPU the equity capital supporting those assets. The Subsidiaries state, however, that they have paid out essentially all of their retained earnings in the form of dividends to GPU and so have not built up any significant surplus of retained earnings to pay dividends in special circumstances. The Subsidiaries also note that, while the sale of the Generation Assets yielded after-tax gains of approximately \$195 million and \$520 million for Met-Ed and Penelec, respectively, those gains cannot be used to facilitate dividend payments out of retained earnings, but must instead be used to offset stranded costs incurred by the Subsidiaries.

Accordingly, Met-Ed and Penelec propose, subject to certain limitations, to declare and pay dividends out of capital and unearned surplus. Specifically, Met-Ed and Penelec propose to pay dividends from time to time through December 31, 2001, in respective amounts aggregating up to \$145 million and \$155 million. The Subsidiaries state that neither Met-Ed