

may group records by program, function, or organizational component and propose disposition instructions for the electronic copies associated with each grouping. This approach is described as Model 2 in the Bulletin. Schedules that follow Model 2 do not describe records at the series level.

For each schedule covered by this notice the following information is provided: name of the Federal agency and any subdivisions requesting disposition authority; the organizational unit(s) accumulating the records or a statement that the schedule has agency-wide applicability in the case of schedules that cover records that may be accumulated throughout an agency; the control number assigned to each schedule; the total number of schedule items; the number of temporary items (the record series proposed for destruction); a brief description of the temporary electronic copies; and citations to previously approved SF 115s or printed disposition manuals that scheduled the recordkeeping copies associated with the electronic copies covered by the pending schedule. If a cited manual or schedule is available from the Government Printing Office or has been posted to a publicly available Web site, this too is noted.

Further information about the disposition process is available on request.

Schedules Pending

1. Social Security Administration, Agency-wide (N9-47-00-28, 7 items, 7 temporary items). Electronic copies of records created using electronic mail and word processing that relate to communications. Included are electronic copies of such documents as published issuances and related production and control files, records relating to audiovisual products, graphics reference files, and talent files. This schedule follows Model 2 as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Record keeping copies of these files are included in Disposition Job Nos. NC174-176, NC-47-75-9, NC-47-75-24, NC1-47-76-12, NC1-47-76-14, and NC1-47-81-5.

2. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, Office of the Executive Director (N9-455-00-1, 14 items, 14 temporary items). Electronic copies of records created using electronic mail and word processing that are accumulated by the agency's Public Information Office. Included are electronic copies of such documents as subject files, speeches and articles, activity reports, congressional testimony, publications, and

administrative studies. This schedule follows Model 1 as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Recordkeeping copies of these files are included in Disposition Job No. N1-455-87-1.

3. United States International Trade Commission, Agency-wide (N9-81-00-1, 14 items, 14 temporary items). Electronic copies of records created using electronic mail and word processing. Included are electronic copies of such documents as publications, press releases, minutes of meetings, litigation case files, informal investigation files, congressional correspondence, directives, budget estimates, and files pertaining to commodities. This schedule follows Model 2 as described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice. Recordkeeping copies of these files are included in Disposition Job Nos. NC1-81-78-1, N1-81-89-1, and N1-81-97-1.

Dated: April 7, 2000.

Michael J. Kurtz,

*Assistant Archivist for Record Services—
Washington, DC.*

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Section 50.44, 10 CFR 50.46, and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix K, for Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) Units 1 and 2, located in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is in accordance with TVA's application for exemptions dated February 11, 2000.

The proposed action is to exempt TVA from requirements to base its analyses of hydrogen generation, energy release and cladding oxidation, during design basis accidents, on the assumption that either zircaloy or

ZIRLO is used as the fuel rod cladding material. The design of a new fuel planned for use at SQN utilizes M5 alloy as the fuel rod clad, spacer grid, fuel assembly guide, instrument tube and fuel rod end plug material.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption is needed because the regulations indicate that light-water reactors contain fuel of uranium oxide pellets enclosed in zircaloy or ZIRLO cladding. The licensee proposes to use a new fuel having "M5" cladding instead of zircaloy or ZIRLO. Exemptions are, therefore, required in order to use the new fuel.

One specific regulation that references use of zircaloy and ZIRLO as fuel cladding material is 10 CFR 50.46, which defines the analytical requirements related to the performance of Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCS). TVA has provided information that indicates that the effectiveness of ECCS will not be affected by the use of M5 material, and that the ECCS acceptance criteria specified in the regulations for use with zircaloy and ZIRLO are also applicable to M5. Because the underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.46 is achieved through the use of M5, special circumstances are present under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) for granting an exemption to 10 CFR 50.46.

The other regulations that relate to use of zircaloy and ZIRLO are 10 CFR 50.44 and 10 CFR 50, Appendix K, which ensure that cladding oxidation and hydrogen generation are limited during a loss-of-coolant accident and conservatively accounted for in analytical models. TVA has provided information indicating that the "Baker-Just equation," referenced in these regulations for use with zircaloy and ZIRLO, are also conservative for use with M5. Because the underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.44 and 10 CFR 50, Appendix K, is achieved through the use of M5, special circumstances are present under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) for granting an exemption to these regulations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that with regard to radiological impacts to the general public, the proposed action involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be

released off site, 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 non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Alternative 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 exemption 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 dated February 13, 1974, for SQN Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, the NRC staff consulted with an official of the State of Tennessee, Ms. Joelle Key, on March 29, 2000, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. Ms. Key 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 this action, see the licensee's letter dated February 11, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room) and from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.

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

For The Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ronald W. Hernan,

Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Interest Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest on Late Premium Payments; Interest on Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability and Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in April 2000. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in May 2000. The interest rates for late premium payments under part 4007 and for underpayments and overpayments of single-employer plan termination liability under part 4062 and multiemployer withdrawal liability under part 4219 apply to interest accruing during the second quarter (April through June) of 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The rate is the "applicable percentage" (currently 85 percent) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). The yield figure is reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15.

The assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in April 2000 is 5.14 percent (i.e., 85 percent of the 6.05 percent yield figure for March 2000).

The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between May 1999 and April 2000.

| For premium payment years beginning in: | The assumed interest rate is: |
|---|-------------------------------|
| May 1999 | 4.72 |
| June 1999 | 4.94 |
| July 1999 | 5.13 |
| August 1999 | 5.08 |
| September 1999 | 5.16 |
| October 1999 | 5.16 |
| November 1999 | 5.32 |
| December 1999 | 5.23 |
| January 2000 | 5.40 |
| February 2000 | 5.64 |
| March 2000 | 5.30 |
| April 2000 | 5.14 |

Late Premium Payments; Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability

Section 4007(b) of ERISA and § 4007.7(a) of the PBGC's regulation on Payment of Premiums (29 CFR part 4007) require the payment of interest on late premium payments at the rate established under section 6601 of the Internal Revenue Code. Similarly, § 4062.7 of the PBGC's regulation on Liability for Termination of Single-employer Plans (29 CFR part 4062) requires that interest be charged or credited at the section 6601 rate on underpayments and overpayments of employer liability under section 4062 of ERISA. The section 6601 rate is established periodically (currently quarterly) by the Internal Revenue Service. The rate applicable to the second quarter (April through June) of