NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–286]

Power Authority of the State of New York Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3; Issuance of Director’s Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

By letter dated February 10, 2000, Mr. David A. Lochbaum, on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists (Petitioner), pursuant to Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.206), requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission or NRC) take action with regard to the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3), owned and operated by the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY). The Petitioner requested that the NRC order PASNY to assess the corrective action process and the work environment at IP3 and to take timely actions to remedy any deficiencies it may identify.

The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has addressed the technical concerns provided by the Petitioner. However, the Petitioner’s request for the staff to take enforcement action was not granted for the reasons that are explained in the “Director’s Decision Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206” (DD–00–03). The complete text of the Director’s Decision is available for public inspection at the Commission’s Public Document Room located in the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and will be accessible electronically from the agencywide documents access and management system (ADAMS) public library component on the NRC Web site, http://www.nrc.gov (the electronic reading room).

A copy of the Decision will be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission’s review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c) of the Commission’s regulations. As provided for by this regulation, the Decision will constitute the final action of the Commission 25 days after the date of issuance of the Decision unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes a review of the Decision within that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of July 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,
Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

SUNSHINE ACT MEETING

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.


PLACE: Commissioners’ Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of July 31

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

Week of August 7—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of August 7.

Week of August 14—Tentative

Tuesday, August 15
9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (If necessary)
9:30 a.m. Briefing on NRC International Activities (Public Meeting) (Contact: Ron Hauber, 301–415–2344)
This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov/live.html

Week of August 21—Tentative

Monday, August 21
1:55 p.m. Affirmation Section (Public Meeting) (If necessary)

Week of August 28—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of August 28.

Week of September 4—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of September 4.

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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 July 25, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission’s rules that “Affirmation of (a) Final Rule to Amend 10 CFR Part 70, Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material and (b) Final Rule: 10 CFR Part 72—Clarification and Addition of Flexibility” be held on July 25, and on less than one week’s notice to the public.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; Revisions to Existing Systems of Records

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Revision to existing systems of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4)), we are issuing public notice of a revision to SSA’s special procedure for providing individuals notification of, or access to, their medical records in SSA’s possession when direct access to the records may have an adverse affect on the individual to whom the record pertains. The revised procedure is applicable to 28 of SSA’s systems of records. The revised procedure is the result of a Seventh Circuit decision invalidating SSA’s regulation on access to medical records. See 20 CFR 401.55. Thus, we are changing the “Notification Procedure” and “Record Access Procedures” sections in each system of records notice to conform to the Seventh Circuit’s decision.

We invite public comment on this proposal.

DATES: The proposed revisions will become effective August 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals may comment on this publication by writing to the SSA Privacy Officer, Social Security Administration, 3–F–1 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401. All comments received will be
available for public inspection at the above address.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Discussion of Revision

On June 13, 2000, in *Bavido v. Apfel*, No. 98–4046, 2000 U.S. App. LEXIS 13547, the Seventh Circuit held that the special procedure in the Social Security Administration’s (SSA’s) regulations for providing individuals access to their medical records through a designated representative is invalid. See 20 CFR 401.55(b)(ii). Prior to the Seventh Circuit’s decision, the special procedure required individuals requesting notification of, or access to, their medical records to designate a responsible representative to receive the record. The special procedures allowed the designated representative to use his or her discretion to withhold all or a portion of an individual’s medical record. The Seventh Circuit held that the procedure was inconsistent with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) because it requires an individual to designate a representative who ultimately has complete discretion to disclose or to withhold the requested information. Although the court invalidated this portion of the regulation, it recognized that an agency may have a special procedure for access to sensitive medical records, such as psychological records, but the procedure must assure the ultimate disclosure of the records to the requesting individual.

As a result of the court’s decision, SSA is revising the Agency’s special procedure regarding providing individuals access to their medical records. The revised special procedure will still require individuals requesting access to medical records to designate a responsible representative to receive the medical records if the Agency determines that direct access may adversely affect the individual. However, the responsible representative chosen by the subject of the medical record(s) must ultimately provide all of the records to him or her. The representative cannot use discretion to withhold any portion of the records. The revised special procedure found in the “Notification Procedure” and “Record Access Procedure” sections of each Privacy Act system notice listed below will read as follows:

An individual who requests access to his or her medical records shall be given direct access to those records unless SSA determines that it is likely that direct access would adversely affect the individual. If SSA determines that direct access to the medical record(s) would likely adversely affect the individual, he or she must designate a responsible representative who is capable of explaining the contents of the medical record(s) to him and who would be willing to provide the entire record(s) to the individual.

We are not republishing in their entirety the notices of systems of records to which we are revising the special procedures for access to medical records because of the large number of those systems of records and the costs of republishing individual notices of each one. Instead, we are republishing only the identification number, and the name of each system, and the volume, page number, and date of the Federal Register issue in which the systems notice was last published. The revision will be included in the following SSA systems notices:

10. Claims Folders System, 60–0089 (65 FR 13808, dated 03/14/00).
12. Supplemental Security Income Record and Special Veterans Benefits, 60–0103 (65 FR 32142, dated 05/22/00).
14. Matches of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) Data (Joint SSA/Treasury Department, Office of Tax Analysis, Statistics Development Project), 60–0149 (47 FR 45589, dated 10/13/82).
15. Continuous Work History Sample (Statistics), 60–0159 (47 FR 45589, dated 10/13/82).
17. Extramural Surveys (Statistics), 60–0199 (47 FR 45589, dated 10/13/82).
18. Retirement and Survivors Studies, Surveys, Records and Extracts (Statistics), 60–0200 (47 FR 45589, dated 10/13/82).
19. Old Age, Survivors and Disability Beneficiary and Worker Records and Extracts (Statistics), 60–0202 (47 FR 45589, dated 10/13/82).
26. Vocational Rehabilitation; State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Information (VR SVRA) File, 60–0253 (formerly 05–007) (63 FR 7034, dated 02/11/98).
27. Vocational Rehabilitation; SSA Disability Beneficiaries/Recipients Eligible for Re-referral to an Alternate Vocational Rehabilitation Service Provider (VR Re-referral), 60–0254 (formerly 05–008) (63 FR 7034, dated 02/11/98).
28. Social Security Title VIII Special Veterans Benefits Claims Development and Management Information System, 60–0273 (65 FR 13803, dated 03/14/00).

We will amend SSA’s disclosure regulation (20 CFR part 401) to include the revised special procedure. Pending amendment of the regulations, we are announcing the revised special procedure via this publication.

II. Effect of Revisions on Individual Rights

The proposed changes will:
(1) Revise SSA’s special procedures for access to medical records in accordance with Bavido v. Apfel; (2) Clarify that an individual is not required to designate a representative in writing unless the Agency first determines that direct access to those records would adversely affect him; and (3) Indicate that a designated representative does not have discretion to withhold the records from the individual.

Dated: July 26, 2000.
Darrell Blevins, SSA Privacy Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Bureau of European Affairs, Office of European Security and Political Affairs (EUR/RPM)

[Public Notice 3376]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: 60-Day Notice of proposed information collection; election observer questionnaire.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the Federal Register preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

Type of Request: Data Collection from Election Observers

Originating Office: Bureau of European Affairs, Office of European Security and Political Affairs (EUR/RPM)

Title of Information Collection: Election Observer Questionnaire

Frequency: Occasionally, linked to elections in certain OSCE Participating States.

Form Number: None.

Respondents: U.S. citizens selected and funded by the U.S. Department of State to serve as election observers as part of OSCE Election Observation Missions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100 per year.

Average Hours Per Response: 10 minutes per response.

Total Estimated Burden: 1000 minutes = 16 hrs 40 minutes.

Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

• Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency.

• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

• Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

• Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to the OSCE Coordinator, Bureau of European Affairs, Room 6227, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520 (telephone number 202–736–7290).

Walter E. Andrusyszyn, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European Affairs, Department of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
[Public Notice: 3371]

United States-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Board; Science and Technology Program for Competitive Grants To Support International, Collaborative Projects in Science and Technology Between U.S. and Egyptian Cooperators

August 1, 2000.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Vickie Alexander, Program Administrator, U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Grants Program, U.S. Embassy, Cairo/ECPO, Unit 64900, Box 6, APO AE 09839–4900; phone: 011–(20–2) 797–2925; fax: 011–(20–2) 797–3150; E-mail: alexanderv@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: This program is established under 22 U.S.C. 2656d and the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

A solicitation for this program will begin August 1, 2000. This program will provide modest grants for successfully competitive proposals for binational collaborative projects and other activities submitted by U.S. and Egyptian experts. Projects must help the United States and Egypt utilize science and apply technology by providing opportunities to exchange ideas, information, skills, and techniques, and to collaborate on scientific and technological endeavors of mutual interest and benefit. Proposals which fully meet the submission requirements as outlined in the Program Announcement will receive peer reviews. Proposals considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2001 must be postmarked by November 1, 2000. All proposals will be considered; however, special consideration will be given to proposals that address priority areas defined/approved by the Joint Board. These include priorities in the areas of information technology, environmental technologies, biotechnology, standards and metrology, and manufacturing technologies. More information on these priorities and copies of the Program Announcement/Application may be obtained by request.

William R. Gaines,
Director, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, and Chair, U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS–176]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States of America—Section 211 of the Department of Commerce Appropriations Act, 1999

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) is providing notice of a request for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (“WTO”), requested by the European Communities and their Member States (the “EC”). The EC has asked that a panel examine whether section 211 of the “Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998” [sic] is consistent with U.S. obligations under