

(which consists of the regulatory text and preamble).⁸ The draft of the Final Rule will be shared with the OIG for review and comment. The draft of the Final Rule will be submitted to the President with a Statement of Issues. The President may then: approve the draft of the Final Rule for submission to the Committee for its consideration; return it to OLA for revisions as necessary; or, jointly with the Committee, terminate the rulemaking.

Once approved, the draft of the Final Rule will be set for consideration by the Committee at a public meeting. The draft of the Final Rule and Statement of Issues will be provided to the Committee and the Board sufficiently in advance of the meeting to permit appropriate consideration. In addition, a notice of the meeting announcing the placement of the Final Rule on the Committee agenda will be published in the **Federal Register**. At the Committee meeting, management will present a summary of the Comments and the draft Final Rule with the assistance of OLA. It is anticipated that the Committee will accept public comment as needed to assist in its deliberations. The Committee will vote on whether to recommend the Final Rule to the Board or return it to staff for revisions.

If the draft Final Rule is approved by the Committee for review by the Board, the Board will consider the draft Final Rule and vote to adopt it or to return it to the Committee for further action. At its discretion, the Board may request the participation of members of the public during its deliberations. Once the Final Rule is adopted by the Board, OLA will make any necessary technical revisions to it and submit the final version for approval for publication to the Board's designee (for example, the Board Chair or the Committee Chair). The Final Rule will then be published in the **Federal Register** and placed on LSC's website.

Establishment of Mailing List

As noted above, public notice that a rulemaking proceeding has begun will be accomplished through posting a notice to that effect on the LSC website, and by sending notice by mail to those who have previously requested such notice. With this notice, LSC is formally establishing a mailing list dedicated to that purpose. Persons and organizations wishing to be notified by mail when LSC undertakes a rulemaking proceeding should submit a notice indicating such interest and providing

contact information (name, title, organization and mailing address) to Mattie C. Condray at the address listed above.

Victor M. Fortuno,
General Counsel and Vice President for Legal Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-24836 Filed 9-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7050-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is inviting the general public or other Federal agencies to comment on this proposed continuing information collection.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by November 27, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or for a copy of the collection instrument and instructions contact Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, NSF Reports Clearance Officer, via surface mail: National Science Foundation, ATTN: NSF Reports Clearance Officer, Suite 295, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230 or e-mail: splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: 2001 National Survey of Recent College Graduates.

OMB Control No.: 3145-0077.

Expiration Date of Approval: February 28, 2002.

1. Abstract

The National Survey of Recent College Graduates (NSRCG) has been conducted biennially since 1974. For the 2001 cycle, a sample of individuals who have recently earned bachelor's and master's degrees in science and engineering from U.S. institutions will be surveyed. The purpose of the study is to provide national estimates

describing the relationship between education and employment for bachelor's and master's recipients in science and engineering. The study is one of three components of the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System (SESTAT), which produces national estimates of the size and characteristics of the nation's science and engineering population.

The National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as subsequently amended, includes a statutory charge to “* * * provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government.” The National Survey of Recent College Graduates is designed to comply with these mandates by providing information on the supply and utilization of scientists and engineers at the bachelor's and master's degree level. Collected data will be used to produce estimates of the characteristics of these individuals. They will also provide necessary input into the SESTAT labor force data system, which produces national estimates of the size and characteristics of the country's science and engineering population. The Foundation uses this information to prepare congressionally mandated reports such as Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering and Science and Engineering Indicators. A public release file of collected data, designed to protect respondent confidentiality, is expected to be made available to researchers on CD-ROM and on the World Wide Web.

The Survey will be primarily conducted using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). Questionnaires will be mailed only to those individuals who are unwilling to provide information over the telephone but willing to complete a mail questionnaire. CATI interviewing will begin in April 2001 and is estimated to end in December 2001. The survey will be collected in conformance with the Privacy Act of 1974 and the individual's response to the survey is voluntary. NSF will insure that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for research or statistical purposes, analyzing data, and preparing scientific reports and articles.

2. Expected Respondents

We will sample approximately 27,500 graduates with bachelor's and master's degrees in science and engineering from U.S. academic institutions

⁸ On rare occasions, it may become necessary for LSC to raise additional issues for comment. In such a case, LSC may issue a Revised NPRM and repeat the comment process.

3. Burden on the Public

The amount of time to complete the questionnaire may vary depending on an individual's circumstances; however, on average it will take approximately 30 minutes to complete the survey. We estimate that the total annual burden will be 13,750 hours during the year.

Special Areas for Review: NSF request special review and comments in the following areas:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Foundation, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the Foundation's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(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.

Dated: September 22, 2000.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

NSF Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-24876 Filed 9-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-458]

Entergy Gulf States, Inc. and Entergy Operations, Inc.; River Bend Station, Unit 1; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47, issued to Entergy Gulf States, Inc. and Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI, or the licensee) for operation of the River Bend Station, Unit 1 (RBS), located in Saint Francisville, Louisiana.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow EOI to increase the maximum reactor core power level from 2894 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 3039 MWt, which is an increase of five percent of rated core thermal power for the RBS.

The proposed action is in accordance with EOI's application for amendment dated July 30, 1999, as supplemented by letters dated April 3, May 9, July 18, and August 24, 2000.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action permits an increase in the licensed core thermal

power from 2894 MWt to 3039 MWt and provides the flexibility to increase the potential electrical output of RBS.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

EOI has submitted an environmental evaluation supporting the proposed power uprate and provided a summary of its conclusions concerning both the radiological and non-radiological environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based on the NRC's independent analyses and the evaluation performed by the licensee, the staff concludes that the proposed increase in power is not expected to result in a significant environmental impact.

Radiological Environmental Assessment

Radwaste Systems

The reactor coolant contains activated corrosion products, which are the result of metallic materials entering the water and being activated in the reactor region. Under power uprate conditions, the feedwater flow increases with power and the activation rate in the reactor region increases with power. The net result may be an increase in the activated corrosion product production. However, the total volume of processed waste is not expected to increase appreciably.

Non-condensable radioactive gas from the main condenser, along with air leakage, normally contains activation gases (principally N-16, O-19 and N-13) and fission product radioactive noble gases. This is the major source of radioactive gas (greater than all other sources combined). These non-condensable gases, along with non-radioactive air, are continuously removed from the main condensers which discharge into the offgas system. The gaseous effluents will remain within the original limits following implementation of power uprate.

EOI has concluded that the operation of the radwaste systems at RBS will not be impacted by operation at uprated power conditions and the slight increase in effluents discharged would continue to meet the requirements of Part 20 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I. Therefore, power uprate will not appreciably affect the ability to process liquid or gaseous radioactive effluents and there are no significant environmental effects from radiological releases.

Dose Consideration

EOI evaluated the effects of power uprate on the radiation sources within

the plant and radiation levels during normal and post-accident conditions. Post-operation radiation levels in most areas of the plant are expected to increase by no more than the percentage increase in power level. In a few areas near the spent fuel pool cooling system piping and the reactor water piping, where accumulation of corrosion product crud is expected, as well as near some liquid radwaste equipment, the increase could be slightly higher. In this regard, procedural controls are expected to compensate for increased radiation levels. Occupational doses for normal operations will be maintained within acceptable limits by the site as-low-as-reasonably-achievable program.

Power uprate does not involve significant increases in the offsite doses to the public from noble gases, airborne particulates, iodine, tritium, or liquid effluents. A review of the normal radiological effluent doses shows that, at the current power level, doses are less than one percent of the doses allowed by Technical Specifications (TSs). Present offsite radiation levels are a negligible portion of background radiation. Therefore, the normal offsite doses are not significantly affected by operation at the uprated power level and remain below the limits of 10 CFR Part 20 and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I.

The change in core inventory resulting from power uprate is expected to increase post-accident radiation levels by no more than the percentage increase in power level. The licensee reanalyzed the control rod drop accident, the loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), the fuel handling accident, the instrument line break accident, and the main steam line break accident for power uprate conditions. The slight increase in the post-accident radiation levels has no significant effect on the plant nor on the habitability of the control room envelope, the Emergency Operations Facility, or the Technical Support Center. Thus, the licensee has determined that access to areas requiring post-accident occupancy will not be significantly affected by power uprate. The licensee evaluated the whole body and thyroid doses at the exclusion area boundary that might result from the postulated design basis LOCA and determined that doses remain below established regulatory limits. Therefore, the results of the radiological analyses remain below the 10 CFR Part 100 guidelines and all radiological safety margins are maintained.