

nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives 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 application 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

The action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in previous reviews for the Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The plant was licensed prior to the requirement for issuance of a Final Environmental Statement.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On August 21, 2001, the staff consulted with the Massachusetts State official, Jim Muckerheide of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

Further details with respect to the proposed action may be found in the licensee's letter dated September 28, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated October 12, 2000, April 18, 2001, May 29, 2001, and June 28, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by

telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of September 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stephen Dembek,

Chief, Section 2, Project Directorate IV, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

Postal Data Systems Briefing

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice of official briefing.

SUMMARY: In a letter of August 7, 2001, the Postal Service notified the Commission of planned changes in the Revenue, Pieces and Weight (RPW) reporting system. The new approach, referred to as Characteristics RPW (CRPW), will rely on mailpiece characteristics rather than data collectors' knowledge for assigning the mailpiece to a rate category. This change, which is to be implemented beginning in Postal Quarter 1, FY 2002, appears designed to rectify nonsampling errors associated with the current system. The Service will provide a technical briefing on the change on Friday, September 21, 2001, at 11 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room, 1333 H, Street NW., Washington, DC. This briefing is open to the public.

DATES: Friday, September 21, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202-789-6820.

Steven W. Williams,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-23541 Filed 9-20-01; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Determination of Quarterly Rate of Excise Tax of Railroad Retirement Supplemental Annuity Program

In accordance with directions in section 3221(c) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act (26 U.S.C., section 3221(c)), the Railroad Retirement Board has determined that the excise tax imposed by such section 3221(c) on every employer, with respect to having individuals in his employ, for each work-hour for which compensation is paid by such employer for services rendered to him during the quarter

beginning October 1, 2001, shall be at the rate of 26 cents.

In accordance with directions in section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, the Railroad Retirement Board has determined that for the quarter beginning October 1, 2001, 38.7 percent of the taxes collected under sections 3211(b) and 3221(c) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall be credited to the Railroad Retirement Account and 61.3 percent of the taxes collected under such sections 3211(b) and 3221(c) plus 100 percent of the taxes collected under section 3221(d) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall be credited to the Railroad Retirement Supplemental Account.

Dated: September 14, 2001.

By Authority of the Board.

Beatrice Ezerski,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 01-23578 Filed 9-20-01; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 25156]

Investment Company Act of 1940; Order Under Sections 6(c), 17(b) and 38(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 Granting Exemptions From Certain Provisions of the Act and Certain Rules Thereunder

September 14, 2001.

In light of the recent events affecting the financial markets, the Commission finds that the exemptions set forth below:

Are necessary and appropriate to the exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Act;

Are necessary and appropriate in the public interest and consistent with the protection of investors and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act; and

Permit transactions the terms of which, including the consideration to be paid or received, are reasonable and fair and do not involve overreaching on the part of any person concerned.

The necessity for immediate action of the Commission does not permit prior notice of the Commission's action.

Accordingly,

It Is Ordered:

I. In-Person Meetings and Voting of Directors Required by the Investment Company Act

For 30 calendar days beginning on September 14, 2001, a registered management investment company and any investment adviser of or principal