

authorized user physician. Collection of this information enables the NRC to ascertain whether misadministrations (§ 35.33) are investigated by the licensee and that corrective action is taken. Additionally, NRC has a responsibility to inform the medical community of generic issues identified in the NRC review of misadministrations.

Revisions to 10 CFR 35.32 and 35.33 are being made as part of a complete revision of 10 CFR part 35 to incorporate specific improvements in NRC's regulations governing the medical use of byproduct material. A final rule revising part 35 was affirmed by the Commission on October 23, 2000 and was submitted, along with its associated clearance package, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). A notice was published in the **Federal Register** on March 16, 2001, announcing a 30-day public comment period on the submittal. It is anticipated that the effective date of the final rule revising part 35, including the revisions to sections 35.32 and 35.33, will be March 2002, and the OMB clearance for sections 35.32 and 35.33 will be then included under the OMB clearance for part 35 (3150-0010).

Currently, the OMB clearances for sections 35.32 and 35.33 are due to expire October 31, 2001. In view of the fact that these parts will shortly thereafter be covered under OMB clearance 3150-0010, the Commission is seeking a 1-year clearance extension for the information collection requirements in these sections to allow sufficient time for OMB to complete its review of the NRC clearance package for the revision to part 35, for NRC to publish the final rule, and for the rule to become effective. Because the final part 35 and its OMB clearance will be in place in a short time period, the burden hour estimates in this extension package are not being revised from those contained in the previous OMB approval for sections 35.32 and 35.33 under 3150-0171.

A copy of the final supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Room O-1 F23, Rockville, MD 20852. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/OMB/index.html>. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer listed below by October 22, 2001. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but

assurance of consideration cannot be given to comments received after this date.

Bryon Allen, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0171), NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments can also be submitted by telephone at (202) 395-3087.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, 301-415-7233.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-23613 Filed 9-20-01; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-29]

Yankee Atomic Electric Company, Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from 10 CFR part 73.55(d)(5) for Facility Operating License No. DPR-3, issued to Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC, or the licensee), for operation of the Yankee Nuclear Power Station (YNPS), located in Franklin County, Massachusetts. As required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt the YNPS Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) from some requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against radiological sabotage." Specifically, YAEC would be granted an exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) related to access requirements. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated September 28, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated October 12, 2000, April 18, 2001, May 29, 2001, and June 28, 2001.

The Need for the Proposed Action

YNPS was shut down in October 1991. On February 27, 1992, the licensee informed the Commission that it had decided to permanently cease operations at YNPS and that all fuel had

been permanently removed from the reactor. The NRC, in a license amendment dated August 5, 1992, modified License No. DPR-3 to a Possession Only License (POL). The license is conditioned so that YAEC is not authorized to operate the reactor and fuel may not be placed in the reactor vessel, thus formalizing the YAEC commitment to permanently cease power operations. The YNPS spent nuclear fuel is currently being stored in the spent fuel pool, which is protected by a physical protection system meeting the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, with exemptions as previously issued by the NRC. To complete the plant site decommissioning process, the spent fuel will be removed from the spent fuel pool and transferred to an onsite ISFSI for interim storage. Under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 72, Subpart K, General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites, YAEC is required to meet the physical protection requirements of 10 CFR 73.55 for an ISFSI at a reactor site. YAEC proposed alternative approaches to meet the provisions of portions of 10 CFR 73.55 related to the security organization, physical barriers, access requirements, detection aids, communications, and response requirements. However, the staff determined that, with regard to the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), the measures proposed by YAEC did not meet the criteria of 10 CFR 73.55(a) to be authorized as alternative measures. However, the staff also concluded that pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7 and 10 CFR 73.5, the proposed alternatives to the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) that YAEC requested could be granted as an exemption.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that granting an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55 would not have a significant impact on the environment.

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 nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect

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.

[FR Doc. 01-23614 Filed 9-20-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

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