

walkdown inspections are conducted. Further, less restrictive P-T limit curves based on the application of ASME Code Case N-640 will enhance overall plant safety by minimizing challenges to operators during pressure testing, heatup, cooldown, and normal power operation. Thus, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the underlying purpose of the regulations will continue to be served.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes, as set forth below, that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the use of the alternative analysis methods to support the revision of the RPV P-T limits for the Browns Ferry Plant, Units 2 and 3.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of 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 the Final Environmental Statement for the Browns Ferry Plant, Units 2 and 3, dated April 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On February 28, 2002, the staff consulted with the Alabama State official, Kirk Whatley, of the Office of Radiation Control, 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.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 17, 2001, as supplemented by letters dated December 14, 2001, and February 6, 2002. 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 Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/html>. 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 to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of March 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard P. Correia,

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

[FR Doc. 02-6229 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; 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 assumptions for

multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (part 4281). These assumptions are published elsewhere but are referenced in this notice for the convenience of the public. This notice also informs the public that announcement of the required interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates is being deferred. The PBGC plans to announce the required interest rate well before the variable-rate premium is due. Interest rates are published on the PBGC's Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in April 2002.

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. (TTY/TDD users may 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 (the "required interest rate") in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The required interest 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"). Until recently, that yield figure was reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Release H.15.

The Treasury Department has suspended issuance of 30-year Treasury securities and, effective February 18, 2002, ceased supplying the Federal Reserve board with an estimate of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for publication in Statistical Release H.15. As a result of these changes, the PBGC is consulting with the Treasury Department on how best to determine the required interest rate. As soon as the PBGC determines the required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in

March 2002, it will inform the public of the rate. This will be well before the variable-rate premium for premium payment years beginning in March 2002 is due.

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in April 2002 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 12th day of March 2002.

Steven A. Kandarian,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-6428 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Reinstatement of a Revised Information Collection: Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance; Price and Background Surveys

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for reinstatement of two previously-approved information collections for which approval has expired. OPM uses the two information collections—a price survey and a background survey—to gather data to be used in determining cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) for certain Federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The price surveys will be conducted in each COLA area on a rotating basis once every 3 years and annually in the Washington, DC, area. The background surveys will be conducted in these same areas and

according to the same schedule, but on a more limited basis.

The price survey is necessary for collecting living-cost data used to determine cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) paid to General Schedule, U.S. Postal Service, and certain other Federal employees in the allowance areas. COLAs are based on differences in living costs in the allowance areas compared with living costs in the Washington, DC, area. The background survey is used to improve the COLA methodology and to plan the price surveys and determine such things as the appropriateness of items, services, and businesses selected for survey.

OPM will survey selected retail, service, realty, and other businesses and local governments in the allowance areas and in the Washington, DC, area. Approximately 2,200 establishments will be contacted in the price survey, and approximately 30 establishments will be contacted in the background survey. Participation in the surveys is voluntary.

OPM estimates that the average price survey interview will take approximately 7 minutes, for a total burden of 257 hours. The average background survey interview will take approximately 10 minutes, for a total burden of 5 hours.

For copies of this proposal, please contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey at (202) 606-8358; fax: (202) 418-3251; or e-mail: mbtoomey@opm.gov. Please include a mailing address with your request.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to:

Donald J. Winstead, Assistant Director for Compensation Administration, Workforce Compensation and Performance Service, Office of Personnel Management, Room 7H31, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415-8200, fax: (202) 606-4264, or e-mail: cola@opm.gov.

and
Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kurt M. Springmann, (202) 606-2838.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OPM published notice of its intention to request a reinstatement of the price and background surveys in the **Federal Register** on October 17, 2001 (66 FR 52813). OPM received one comment in

response to the notice. The commenter noted that a sentence in the Summary section of the notice could be interpreted to mean that OPM will conduct surveys annually in selected COLA areas. We agree that the sentence could be misinterpreted, and wish to clarify that OPM will not conduct price surveys annually in any COLA area. As stated in the Supplementary Information section of the notice, OPM will conduct the price surveys in each COLA area on a rotating basis once every 3 years and annually in the Washington, DC, area.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Kay Coles James,

Director.

[FR Doc. 02-6200 Filed 3-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-39-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Notice of Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program Early Enrollment

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Long Term Care Insurance Early Enrollment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management, in conjunction with LTC Partners, is announcing an early enrollment for eligible persons to submit applications for enrollment in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. LTC Partners is an organization formed by the John Hancock and Metropolitan Life Insurance Companies to provide long term care insurance to eligible persons under this Program.

DATES: Early enrollment will run from March 25 through May 15, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You may call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) or visit www.ltcfeds.com for information on applying during early enrollment.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program early enrollment is an opportunity for eligible persons to submit applications for enrollment before the open season begins on July 1, 2002. Early enrollment is designed for persons who are already knowledgeable about long term care insurance and do not need the extensive educational campaign that LTC Partners will undertake before and during the open season.

In our contacts with potential applicants ever since the Program was announced, we realized that there were