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Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of April, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Anthony J. Mendiola,

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

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Change in Proficiency Testing Standard for Processors of Personal Dosimeters

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of change of proficiency testing standard.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce, began a joint effort in 1981, through an Interagency Agreement, to provide an accreditation program for processors of personnel dosimeters. That accreditation program, which is part of the Technology Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is known as the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) for Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry and is referred to as NIST/NVLAP. The purpose of this notice is to: (1) Acknowledge publication of a revised proficiency testing standard for personnel dosimetry performance by NIST/NVLAP; (2) inform the public and dosimetry processors of this action; and (3) identify significant changes in the standard.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 11, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Betty Ann Torres, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone 301-415-0191, e-mail: BAT@nrc.gov, or Carroll S. Brickenkamp, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, NVLAP, Building 820, Room 286, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, telephone 301-975-4291, e-mail: cbrickenkamp@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NRC's regulations (10 CFR 20.1501) require that personnel dosimeters that need to be processed to determine dose must be

processed and evaluated by a dosimetry processor that holds current personnel dosimetry accreditation from the NIST/NVLAP. Proficiency testing, currently required as part of the NIST/NVLAP accreditation process for Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry, is based on the standard issued by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) and the Health Physics Society (HPS) for personnel dosimetry performance, ANSI/HPS N13.11-1993, as modified by NVLAP Bulletin Volume II, No. 1, "DOSIMETRY" (January, 1995). The bulletin modifies dose equivalent conversion factors (C_k) found in Tables 2, 3, and C3 of ANSI/HPS N13.11-1993.

A revision of ANSI/HPS N13.11-1993 was approved by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. in July 2001, and published as ANSI/HPS N13.11-2001 in October 2001. A copy of the revised standard is available for a fee from the Health Physics Society at the following internet address: <http://www.hps.org>.

The revision: (1) Adopts the conversion coefficients for photons issued by NVLAP Bulletin Volume II, No. 1, "DOSIMETRY" (January, 1995); (2) reduces the number of test categories, based on radiation type and energy spectrum, from nine to six; (3) increases the number of possible radiation sources for test categories to which dosimeters can be exposed during testing; (4) lowers the permitted tolerance for all non-accident categories; (5) adds an angle test to the photon category; and (6) limits the number of individual dosimeters tested that is permitted to exceed the tolerance level for non-accident, non-neutron categories.

NVLAP has determined that the revised standard, ANSI/HPS N13.11-2001, will be implemented in the accreditation process as published. Contact Carroll Brickenkamp of NIST/NVLAP for information regarding the implementation of the revised standard, ANSI/HPS N13.11-2001.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of April, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Donald A. Cool,

Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Extension: Rule 17Ac3-1(a) and Form TA-W; SEC File No. 270-96; OMB Control No. 3235-0151.

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon written request, copies available from: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Subsection (c)(3)(C) of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") authorizes transfer agents registered with an appropriate regulatory agency ("ARA") to withdraw from registration by filing with the ARA a written notice of withdrawal and by agreeing to such terms and conditions as the ARA deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or in the furtherance of the purposes of Section 17A.

In order to implement Section 17A(c)(3)(C) of the Exchange Act the Commission, on September 1, 1977, promulgated Rule 17Ac3-1(a) and accompanying Form TA-W. Rule 17Ac3-1(a) provides that notice of withdrawal from registration as a transfer agent with the Commission shall be filed on Form TA-W. Form TA-W requires the withdrawing transfer agent to provide the Commission with certain information, including (1) the locations where transfer agent activities are or were performed; (2) the reasons for ceasing the performance of such activities; (3) disclosure of unsatisfied judgments or liens; and (4) information regarding successor transfer agents.

The Commission uses the information disclosed on Form TA-W to determine whether the registered transfer agent applying for withdrawal from registration as a transfer agent should be allowed to deregister and, if so, whether the Commission should attach to the granting of the application any terms or conditions necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or in furtherance of the purposes of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. Without Rule 17Ac3-1(a) and Form TA-W, transfer agents