NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to OMB and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. *The title of the information collection:* NRC Form 396, ''Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee''.

2. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150–0024.

3. *How often the collection is required:* Upon application for an initial operator license, every six years for the renewal of operator or senior operator license, and upon notices of disability.

4. *Who is required or asked to report:* Facility licensees who are tasked with certifying the medical fitness of an applicant or licensee.

5. *The number of annual respondents:* 140.

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 751 (275 hours for reporting [.25 hours per response] and 476 hours for recordkeeping [3.4 hours per recordkeeper]).

7. *Abstract:* NRC Form 396 is used to transmit information to the NRC regarding the medical condition of applicants for initial operator licenses or renewal of operator licenses and for the maintenance of medical records for all licensed operators. The information is used to determine whether the physical condition and general health of applicants for operator licensees is such that the applicant would not be expected to cause operational errors and endanger public health and safety.

Submit, by October 15, 2002, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?

2. Is the burden estimate accurate?

3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft 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/public-involve/doc-comment/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 about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T–6 E6, Washington, DC 20555–0001, by telephone at 301–415–7233, or by Internet electronic mail to *INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV.*

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of August 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 02–20727 Filed 8–14–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs; Issue

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of issuance.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued Bulletin (BL) 2002–02 to all holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel, and all holders of operating licenses for boiling-water reactors for information. It concerns the recent discoveries of cracked and leaking Alloy 600 vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles at several PWRs and the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head degradation at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. These discoveries have raised concerns about the adequacy of current inspection programs that rely on visual examinations as the primary inspection method to ensure RPV head and VHP structural integrity. Specifically, the staff is concerned that the inspection methods and frequencies (*i.e.,* inspection intervals) of current inspection programs may not be sufficient. Based on experience and information currently available, it may be necessary for inspection programs that rely on visual examinations to be supplemented with additional measures (*e.g.,* volumetric and surface examinations) to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations.

The issuance of this bulletin is the first step in a multi-step approach to address concerns about the adequacy of inspection requirements and programs for RPV heads and VHP nozzles. The other steps are: review the bulletin responses and determine what further regulatory actions are needed (*e.g.,* revision to 10 CFR 50.55a), review the Electric Power Research Institute's Material Reliability Program's (MRP's) proposed inspection program once an applicable technical basis is provided, encourage the revision of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code inspection requirements, and, if acceptable, incorporate the revised ASME Code requirements into NRC regulations.

The purpose of the bulletin is to (1) advise PWR addressees that visual examinations, as a primary inspection method for the RPV head and VHP nozzles, may need to be supplemented with additional measures (*e.g.,* volumetric and surface examinations) to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations, (2) advise PWR addressees that inspection methods and frequencies to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations should be demonstrated to be reliable and effective, (3) request information from all PWR addressees concerning their RPV head and VHP nozzle inspection programs to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, and (4) require all addressees to provide written responses to the bulletin related to their inspection program plans.

DATES: The bulletin was issued on August 9, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Not applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allen L. Hiser, at 301–415–1034, Timothy K. Steingass, at 301–415–3312, Michael L. Marshall, at 301–415–2734, or Steven D. Bloom, at 301–415–1313.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bulletin 2002–02 may be examined and/or copied for a fee at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and is accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and