

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Maitri Banerjee,
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-7580]

Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for License Amendment for Fansteel, Inc.— Muskogee, Oklahoma License No. SMB-911

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability of
 Environmental Assessment and Finding
 of No Significant Impact.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
 James C. Shepherd, Project Manager,
 Decommissioning Branch, Division of
 Waste Management, Office of Nuclear
 Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S.
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail
 Stop: T-7F27, Washington, DC 20555-
 0001. Telephone: (301) 415-6712; Fax
 number: (301) 415-5398; E-mail:
 jcs2@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission (NRC) is considering the
 issuance of a license amendment to
 Material License Number SMB-911,
 issued to Fansteel, Inc. (the licensee), to
 authorize decommissioning of its
 facility located in Muskogee, Oklahoma.
 NRC has prepared an Environmental
 Assessment (EA) in accordance with the
 requirements of 10 CFR part 51 and to
 determine the environmental impacts of
 approving the decommissioning plan
 (DP), subsequent release of the site for
 unrestricted use (as defined in 10 CFR
 20.1402), and termination of the license.

II. EA Summary

The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize the decommissioning of Fansteel's Speciality Metals facility, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, for unrestricted use to allow for license termination. The Fansteel processing facility produced tantalum and columbium metals for approximately 33 years until operations ceased in 1990. The raw materials used for tantalum and columbium production contain uranium and thorium as naturally occurring trace constituents.

The concentration of radioactive species present in the process raw materials is sufficient to cause the ores and slags to be classified by the NRC as source material. Consequently, Fansteel operated under NRC License No. SMB-911 for the possession of source material. Fansteel was authorized by the NRC on March 25, 1997, to complete the processing of ore residues, calcium fluoride residues, and wastewater treatment residues containing uranium and thorium, in various site impoundments.

On July 24, 2003, Fansteel requested that NRC approve the DP for the facility, which when complete, would permit the site to be released for unrestricted use. Final approval for release of the site for unrestricted use and license termination would be contingent upon NRC approval of the licensee's final status survey report and making the findings required by the Commission's regulations following completion of the licensee's decommissioning activities. Fansteel's request for the proposed action was previously noticed in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 2003 (68 FR 47621), along with a notice of an opportunity to request a hearing and an opportunity to provide comments on the action and its environmental impacts.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The staff has prepared the EA in support of the proposed license amendment to decommission the site, terminate the license, and release the site for unrestricted use. On the basis of the EA, NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts from the proposed action, and the license amendment does not warrant preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. It has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate. The amendment will be issued following the publication of this Notice.

IV. Further Information

The EA and the documents related to this proposed action, including the application for the license amendment and supporting documentation, are available for inspection at NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html> [ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML030240051, ML030240062, ML030240109, ML030240134, and ML030240432 (Decommissioning Plan); ML032100530 (request for license amendment); ML032100558 (revised Decommissioning Plan Sections 15.3-15.5); and ML033040204 (Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact)]. These

documents may also be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of October, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Janet R. Schlueter,

*Acting Director, Division of Waste
 Management, Office of Nuclear Material
 Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 03-28066 Filed 11-6-03; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request, Copies Available
 From:* Securities and Exchange
 Commission, Office of Filings and
 Information Services, Washington, DC
 20549.

Extension:

- Rule 17Ad-11; SEC File No. 270-261;
 OMB Control No. 3235-0274.

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.

Rule 17Ad-11: Reports Regarding Aged Record Differences, Buy-ins, and Failure to Post Certificate Detail to Master Securityholder Files

Rule 17Ad-11 requires all registered transfer agents to report to issuers and the appropriate regulatory agency in the event that aged record differences exceed certain dollar value thresholds. An aged record difference occurs when an issuer's records do not agree with those of securityowners as indicated, for instance, on certificates presented to the transfer agent for purchase, redemption or transfer. In addition, the rule requires transfer agents to report to the appropriate regulatory agency in the event of a failure to post certificate detail to the master securityholder file within 5 business days of the time required by Rule 17Ad-10. Also, transfer agents must maintain a copy of each report prepared under Rule 17Ad-11 for a period of three years following the date of the report. These recordkeeping requirements assist the

Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule.

Because the information required by Rule 17Ad-11 is already available to transfer agents, any collection burden for small transfer agents is minimal. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with Rule 17Ad-11 is one hour annually. Based upon past submissions, the total burden is 150 hours annually for transfer agents.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: October 31, 2003.

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-28068 Filed 11-6-03; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Rule 17Ad-13; SEC File No. 270-263; OMB Control No. 3235-0275.

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.

- Rule 17Ad-13 Annual Study and Evaluation of Internal Accounting Control

Rule 17Ad-13 requires approximately 200 registered transfer agents to obtain an annual report on the adequacy of internal accounting controls. In addition, transfer agents must maintain copies of any reports prepared pursuant to Rule 17Ad-13 plus any documents prepared to notify the Commission and appropriate regulatory agencies in the event that the transfer agent is required to take any corrective action. These recordkeeping requirements assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. Small transfer agents are exempt from Rule 17Ad-13.

The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary for each transfer agent to comply with Rule 17Ad-13 is one hundred seventy-five hours annually. The total burden is 35,000 hours annually for transfer agents, based upon past submissions.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Kenneth A. Fogash, Acting Associate Executive Director/CIO, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: October 31, 2003.

Jill M. Peterson,

Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-28069 Filed 11-6-03; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-26246; 812-12860]

Vanguard International Equity Index Funds, et al.; Notice of Application

November 3, 2003.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission")

ACTION: Notice of an application for an order under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for exemptions from sections 2(a)(32), 18(f)(1), 18(i), 22(d), 22(e) and 24(d) of the Act and rule 22c-1 under the Act, and under sections 6(c) and 17(b) of the Act for exemptions from sections 17(a)(1) and (2) of the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order that would permit the following: (a) An open-end management investment company, the series of which consist of the component securities of certain foreign equity securities indices, to issue a class of shares ("VIPER Shares") that can be purchased from the investment company and redeemed only in large aggregations ("Creation Units"); (b) secondary market transactions in VIPER Shares to occur at negotiated prices on a national securities exchange, as defined in section 2(a)(26) of the Act ("Exchange"); (c) dealers to sell VIPER Shares to purchasers in the secondary market unaccompanied by a prospectus when prospectus delivery is not required by the Securities Act of 1933 ("Securities Act"); (d) certain affiliated persons of the series to deposit securities into, and receive securities from, the series in connection with the purchase and redemption of Creation Units; and, (e) the series to pay redemption proceeds, under certain circumstances, more than seven days after the tender of a Creation Unit of VIPER Shares for redemption.

APPLICANTS: Vanguard International Equity Index Funds ("Trust"), The Vanguard Group, Inc. ("VGI"), and Vanguard Marketing Corporation ("VMC").

FILING DATES: The application was filed on July 25, 2002, and amended on October 7, 2003.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on November 28, 2003, and