

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of Workers' Compensation Programs****OMB Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

AGENCY: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Employment Standards Administration, Labor.
ACTION: Notice of OMB extension under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

SUMMARY: The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) is announcing that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has extended, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, a currently approved collection of information under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, and the Black Lung Benefits Act. This notice announces both the OMB number and expiration date.

Compliance Date: As of April 9, 2004, affected parties must continue to comply with the information collection requirements described below, which have been extended by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelby Hallmark, Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3524, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: 202-693-0036 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 25, 2003, OWCP requested that OMB extend under the PRA a currently approved information collection for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000, as amended (EEOICPA), 42 U.S.C. 7384 *et seq.*, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, as amended (FECA), 5 U.S.C. 8101 *et seq.*, and the Black Lung Benefits Act, as amended (BLBA), 30 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.* The information collection requirements that needed to be extended by OMB are derived from regulations that implement these three statutes at 20 CFR 10.801, 30.701, 725.701 and 725.705, and consist of pharmacy billing data requirements that must be followed so bills that are submitted to OWCP for payment by the responsible program can be processed automatically.

On March 31, 2004, OMB approved this extension of a currently approved

collection of information for three years. The OMB control number assigned to this information collection is 1215-0194. The approval for this information collection will expire on March 31, 2007.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 2nd day of April, 2004.

Shelby Hallmark,

Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Employment Standards Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-8053 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-284]

Idaho State University Research Reactor Facility Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the issuance of an amendment for Facility Operating License No. R-110, issued to the Idaho State University (the licensee or ISU) for operation of the Idaho State University Reactor Facility (ISURF) located in Pocatello, Bannock County, Idaho.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed Action*

Renewal of the license (the proposed action) would allow an additional 20 years of operation for the Idaho State University Reactor Facility (ISURF). The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 21, 1995, as supplemented on January 31, 2003 and July 10, 2003. The licensee submitted an Environmental Report for license renewal. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to allow continued operation of the ISURF to continue educational training and academic research beyond the current term of the license.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The research reactor is on the campus of the Idaho State University in the Lillibridge Engineering Laboratory. Lillibridge Engineering Laboratory has research and teaching laboratories, lecture halls, classrooms, library/study room, offices, and workshops. It is

surrounded by similar facilities in the immediate area.

The ISURF is authorized by an NRC license to operate at steady-state thermal power levels up to a maximum of 5 watts(t). The operating license was issued on October 11, 1967. Facility modifications have been minor as outlined in the SAR. The licensee has not indicated any plans to significantly change the design or usage. Since initial operation, the gaseous Argon-41 radiological release has been conservatively estimated to be less than 185,000 becquerels per year (5 microcuries per year). Average concentrations of Argon-41 are conservatively estimated to be less than 1.0×10^{-12} microcuries/milliliter. This concentration is well below the 10 CFR 20, Appendix B, Table 2 limit of 1.0×10^8 microcuries/milliliter. Since 1992, the facility has had no radiological liquid or solid radiological releases. Material has been stored as required. Radioactive waste has been transferred and disposed of following the requirements of the licensee's byproduct license. Currently, there are no plans to change any operating or radiological release practices or characteristics of the reactor during the license renewal period.

The NRC concludes that conditions are not expected to change and that the radiological effects of the continued operation will continue to be minimal. The radiological exposures for facility operations have been within regulatory limits and should remain so.

Currently, there are no plans to change any operating or radiological release practices or characteristics of the reactor during the license renewal period. The NRC concludes that conditions are not expected to change and that the radiological effects of operation during the renewal period will continue to be minimal.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released off-site, and there is no significant increase to occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Potential non-radiological impacts related to the proposed action were evaluated. The license renewal does not involve any historic sites. The facility is wholly located within the Lillibridge building on the campus of Idaho State University. The licensee does not plan any major refurbishment activities, therefore, there will be no new

construction or ground disturbance. The proposed license renewal does not affect non-radiological facility effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

In addition, the environmental impact associated with operation of research reactors has been generically evaluated by the staff and is given in the attached generic evaluation. This evaluation concludes that no significant environmental impact is associated with the operation of research reactors licensed to operate at power levels up to and including 2 megawatts thermal. The NRC staff has determined that this generic evaluation is applicable to operation of the ISURF and, that there are no special or unique features that would preclude reliance on the generic evaluation.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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). If the NRC denied license renewal, ISURF operations would stop with no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternative action are similar.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

On November 13, 2003, the staff consulted with the Idaho State official, Mr. Doug Walker, Senior Health Physicist, Department of Environmental Quality, 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 November 21, 1995, as amended on January 31, 2003, and July 10, 2003. Documents 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. The NRC maintains an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and

image files of NRC's public documents. Documents from November 24, 1999, may be accessed through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of March 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Marvin M. Mendonca,

Acting Chief, Research and Test Reactors Section, New, Research and Test Reactors Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Attachment to Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Considerations Regarding the Licensing of Research Reactors and Critical Facilities

Introduction

This discussion deals with research reactors and critical facilities designed to operate at low power levels, 2 MWt and lower. These small research reactors are used primarily for basic research in neutron physics, neutron radiography, isotope production, experiments associated with nuclear engineering, training, and as a part of a nuclear physics curriculum. Generally, these facilities are operated less than 8 hours per day and fewer than 5 days per week, or about 2000 hours per year. These reactors are located adjacent to technical service support facilities with convenient access for students and faculty.

These reactors are usually housed in appropriately modified existing structures, or placed in new buildings that are designed and constructed to blend in with existing facilities on the campuses of large universities. However, the environmental considerations discussed herein are not limited to those facilities which are part of universities.

Facility

There are no exterior conduits, pipelines, electrical or mechanical structures or transmission lines attached to or adjacent to the facility other than for utility services, which are similar to those required in other similar facilities, specifically laboratories. Heat dissipation, if required, is generally accomplished by a heat exchanger whose secondary side includes a

cooling tower located on the roof of or nearby the reactor building. The size of these cooling towers typically are on the order of 10 ft by 10 ft by 10 ft (3 m by 3 m by 3 m) and are comparable to cooling towers associated with the air-conditioning systems of large office buildings. Heat dissipation may also be accomplished by transfer through a heat exchanger to water flowing directly to a sewer or a chilled water system. Make-up for the cooling system is readily available and usually obtained from the local water supply.

Radioactive gaseous effluents during normal operations are usually limited to argon-41. The release of radioactive liquid effluents can be carefully monitored and controlled. Liquid wastes are collected in storage tanks to allow for decay and monitoring prior to dilution and release to the sanitary sewer system or the environment. This liquid waste may also be solidified and disposed of as solid waste. Solid radioactive wastes are packaged and shipped offsite for storage or disposal at NRC-approved sites. The transportation of such waste is done in accordance with existing NRC-DOT regulations in approved shipping containers.

Chemical and sanitary waste systems are similar to those existing at other similar laboratories and buildings.

Environmental Effects of Site Preparation and Facility Construction

Construction of such facilities invariably occurs in areas that have already been disturbed by other building construction and, in some cases, solely within an already existing building. Therefore, construction would not be expected to have any significant effect on the terrain, vegetation, wildlife or nearby waters or aquatic life. The societal, economic and aesthetic impacts of construction would be no greater than those associated with the construction of an office building or similar research facility.

Environmental Effects of Facility Operation

Release of thermal effluents from a reactor of less than 2 MWt will not have a significant effect on the environment. This small amount of waste heat is generally rejected to the atmosphere by means of small cooling towers. Extensive drift and/or fog will not occur at this low power level. The small amount of waste heat released to sewers, in the case of heat exchanger secondary flow directly to the sewer, will not raise average water temperatures in the environment.

Release of routine gaseous effluents can be limited to argon-41, which is

generated by neutron activation of air. In most cases, this will be kept as low as practicable by using gases other than air for supporting experiments. Experiments that are supported by air are designed to minimize production of argon-41. Yearly doses to persons in unrestricted areas will be at or below established 10 CFR part 20 limits. Routine releases of radioactive liquid effluents can be carefully monitored and controlled in a manner that will ensure compliance with the regulations. Solid radioactive wastes will be shipped in approved containers to an authorized disposal site or to a facility licensed to treat and consolidate radioactive waste. These wastes should not require more than a few shipping containers a year.

Based on experience with other research reactors, specifically TRIGA reactors operating in the 1 to 2 MWt range, the annual release of gaseous and liquid effluents to unrestricted areas should be less than 30 curies (1,110,000 MBq) and 0.01 curies (370 MBq), respectively.

No release of potentially harmful chemical substances will occur during normal operation. Small amounts of chemicals and/or high-solid content water may be released from the facility through the sanitary sewer during periodic blowdown of the cooling tower or from laboratory experiments. The quality of secondary cooling water may be maintained using biocides, corrosion inhibitors and pH control chemicals. The use of these chemicals for this purpose is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The small amounts of laboratory chemicals that may be used in research laboratories are disposed of in accordance with EPA and state requirements.

Other potential effects of the facility, such as aesthetics, noise, societal or impact on local flora and fauna are expected to be too small to measure.

Environmental Effects of Accidents

Accidents ranging from the failure of experiments up to the largest core damage and fission product release considered possible result in doses that are less than 10 CFR part 20 limits and are considered negligible with respect to the environment.

Unavoidable Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The unavoidable effects of construction and operation involve the materials used in construction that cannot be recovered and the fissionable material used in the reactor. No adverse impact on the environment is expected from either of these unavoidable effects.

Alternatives to Construction and Operation of the Facility

To accomplish the objectives associated with research reactors, there are no suitable alternatives. Some of these objectives are training of students in the operation of reactors, production of radioisotopes, and use of neutron and gamma ray beams to conduct experiments.

Long-Term Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The long-term effects of research facilities are considered to be beneficial as a result of the contribution to scientific knowledge and training. Because of the relatively small amount of capital resources involved and the small impact on the environment, very little irreversible and irretrievable commitment is associated with such facilities.

Costs and Benefits of Facility Alternatives

The costs are on the order of several millions of dollars with very little environmental impact. The benefits include, but are not limited to, some combination of the following: conduct of activation analyses, conduct of neutron radiography, training of operating personnel, and education of students. Some of these activities could be conducted using particle accelerators or radioactive sources which would be more costly and less efficient. There is no reasonable alternative to a nuclear research reactor for conducting this spectrum of activities.

Conclusion

The staff concludes that there will be no significant environmental impact associated with the licensing of research reactors or critical facilities designed to operate at power levels of 2 MWt or lower and that no environmental impact statements are required to be written for the issuance of construction permits, operating licenses or license renewals for such facilities.

Revised: March 30, 2004.

[FR Doc. 04-8046 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Reactor Fuels will hold a meeting on April 21,

2004, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

Portions of the meeting may be closed to public attendance to discuss Duke Power or Framatome proprietary information per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4).

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows: Wednesday, April 21, 2004—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.

The purpose of this meeting is to review proposed license amendment to authorize the use of mixed oxide (MOX) Lead Test Assemblies at the Catawba Nuclear Station. The Subcommittee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, Duke Power, Framatome, and other interested persons regarding these matters. The Subcommittee will gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Members of the public desiring to provide oral statements and/or written comments should notify the Designated Federal Official, Mr. Ralph Caruso (telephone 301-415-8065) five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public.

Further information regarding this meeting can be obtained by contacting the Designated Federal Official between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (ET). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual at least two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda.

Dated: April 2, 2004.

Michael R. Snodderly,

Acting Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW.

[FR Doc. 04-8044 Filed 4-8-04; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Fire Protection; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Fire Protection will hold a meeting on April 23, 2004, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows: *Friday, April 23, 2004—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.*