

CALCULATIONS USED TO ESTIMATE OVERALL RESPONSE BURDEN FOR THE ISE ONLINE COLLECTION ¹

Respondent type	Number of respondents	Hours per respondent type	Annual person hour total
Initial submission:			
Pls—Full-scale and Broad Implementation	23	24	552
Pls—Research, Pathways, CRPA	17	16	272
Pls—Conferences, EAGER, RAPID	15	16	240
Annual report:			
Pls—Full-scale and Broad Implementation	69	8	552
Pls—Research, Pathways, CRPA	51	4	204
Pls—Conferences, EAGER, RAPID	0	N/A	0
Closeout report:			
Pls—Full-scale and Broad Implementation	23	16	368
Pls—Research, Pathways, CRPA	17	10	170
Pls—Conferences, EAGER, RAPID	15	10	150
Total	230	2,508

¹ Estimates are provided for a typical annual collection cycle. Hours per respondent type figures and annual person hour totals are based on an average duration of 3.5 years for all award types excluding Conference, EAGER, and RAPID awards (*i.e.*, 40 awards per year). Conference, EAGER, and RAPID awards each have an average duration of 1 year. Therefore, the 69 Full-scale and Broad Implementation respondents listed as completing an annual report are comprised of those projects who received Full-scale and Broad Implementation awards (23 each year) during the prior three years. Similarly, the 51 Research, Pathways, and CRPA respondents listed as completing an annual report are comprised of those projects who received these types of awards (17 each year) over the prior three years.

Dated: July 14, 2009.
Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.
 [FR Doc. E9-17102 Filed 7-17-09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Federal Register Notice

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETINGS: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
DATE: Week of July 20, 2009.
PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.
STATUS: Public and Closed.
ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED:
Week of July 20, 2009

Thursday, July 23, 2009

- 1:25 p.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (Tentative).
- a. Southern Nuclear Operating Co. (Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4), LBP-09-3 (Ruling on Standing and Contention Admissibility); Virginia Electric and Power Co. (North Anna Unit 3), LBP-08-15 (Ruling on Standing and Contention Admissibility) (Tentative).
 - b. Draft Notice and Order for Areva Enrichment Services, LLC (Tentative).

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*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short

notice. To verify the status of meetings, call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Rochelle Bavol, (301) 415-1651.

* * * * *

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/policy-making/schedule.html>.

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The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g. braille, large print), please notify the NRC's Disability Program Coordinator, Rohn Brown, at 301-492-2279, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by e-mail at rohn.brown@nrc.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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This notice is distributed electronically to subscribers. If you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969), or send an e-mail to darlene.wright@nrc.gov.

Dated: July 15, 2009.
Rochelle C. Bavol,
Office of the Secretary.
 [FR Doc. E9-17260 Filed 7-16-09; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2009-0317]

Proposed Generic Communication; Emergency Response Data System Upgrade From Modem to Virtual Private Network Appliance

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to issue a regulatory issue summary (RIS) to notify current and future power reactor licensees of pending changes to the technology used to transmit data from power reactor facility sites to the emergency response data system (ERDS) server at NRC Headquarters (HQ) and to solicit licensees to transition voluntarily to the new technology.

The RIS is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML091350153.

DATES: Comment period expires September 3, 2009. Comments submitted after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given except for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop TWB 5B01M, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and cite the publication

date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Stransky, Senior Emergency Response Coordinator, Operations Branch, Division of Preparedness and Response, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. *Telephone:* (301) 415-6411; *fax number:* (301) 415-6382; *e-mail:* Robert.Stransky@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2009-XX; Emergency Response Data System Upgrade From Modem to Virtual Private Network Appliance

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors under the provisions of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," except those that have ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

All holders of, and applicants for, nuclear power plant construction permits under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities." All holders of, and applicants for, combined licenses under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."

Intent

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this regulatory issue summary (RIS) to notify current and future power reactor licensees of pending changes to the technology used to transmit data from power reactor facility sites to the emergency response data system (ERDS) server at NRC Headquarters (HQ) and to solicit licensees to transition voluntarily to the new technology.

Background

In Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50, the NRC requires power reactor licensees to transmit ERDS data to a server at NRC HQ. Licensees currently use analog modulator/demodulators (modems) to establish point-to-point data connections. Although this technology was state of the art when ERDS was first implemented, it is now obsolete, and replacement equipment is no longer readily available. In addition, the use of modems inherently introduces a cyber security vulnerability to the systems to which they are attached.

As part of the NRC's current effort to modernize the ERDS infrastructure, the NRC has been working with individual licensees to develop an acceptable solution to replace the existing modems. The most promising technology explored was virtual private network (VPN) technology used to create a secure point-to-point data pathway between the licensee site and NRC HQ. This VPN technology is a current, stable, and reliable information technology industry standard. In addition, this technology will permit all ERDS-enabled facilities to connect to NRC HQ simultaneously, thus, enhancing the NRC's ability to respond to incidents that may affect multiple licensees simultaneously, such as grid instability events.

From September 2008 through December 2008, the NRC conducted prototype testing with several licensees (*i.e.*, Exelon Nuclear Corporation, Progress Energy, and the Tennessee Valley Authority) to investigate the viability of using a VPN for the secure transmission of data from power reactor facilities to the ERDS server located at NRC HQ. The NRC provided VPN appliances and configuration support to these licensees. All major test objectives were met. Based on the success of the prototype testing and on the interest expressed by numerous licensees, the NRC intends to proceed with the replacement of existing analog modems with VPN devices. The purpose of this RIS is to solicit licensees to transition voluntarily to the VPN technology.

Summary of Issues

This RIS informs licensees of a voluntary program that they can participate in to upgrade the technology used to transmit plant information to the ERDS server in order to address the following two issues:

(1) The modem technology currently employed to transmit ERDS data from power reactor sites to NRC HQ is obsolete. In addition, replacement modems are no longer readily available.

(2) The use of modems inherently introduces cyber security vulnerabilities to the systems to which they are attached.

Based on the success of the prototype testing, the NRC has decided to enter into a voluntary program with individual licensees to replace the current NRC-supplied modem with an NRC supplied VPN appliance. As of May 1, 2009, licensees representing 19 sites have already expressed interest in transitioning to the VPN solution.

Although ongoing implementation of the ERDS modernization project will change the device used to transmit data,

it does not affect the criteria for transmitting ERDS data, the transmission frequency, the data point library, or any other aspect of ERDS implementation as described in 10 CFR 50.72(a)(4); Appendix E, "Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Production and Utilization Facilities," to 10 CFR Part 50; and NUREG-1394, Revision 1, "Emergency Response Data System Implementation," published in June 1991. The NRC staff also notes that the use of an NRC-provided VPN appliance, when properly configured, is consistent with guidance provided in Regulatory Guide 5.71, "Cyber Security Programs for Nuclear Facilities," (Official Use Only-Security Related Information)

Licensees interested in participating in the voluntary program to replace their modems with an NRC-supplied VPN appliance are encouraged to contact the ERDS support desk by telephone at (301) 415-0467 or through e-mail at ERDS.Resource@nrc.gov. The NRC will support licensee requests in the order in which they are received.

Backfit Discussion

The intent of this RIS is to inform stakeholders of a change to the data transmission technology for ERDS information. This change is a part of the continuing ERDS modernization project, and it will provide improved technology and cyber security for both licensees and the NRC. This RIS informs stakeholders of the change to the technology to transmit ERDS data to the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50 and to solicit voluntary participation by licensees in a program to replace obsolete technology with modern equipment.

This RIS provides licensees an opportunity to schedule a replacement of NRC-provided obsolete modems with NRC-provided VPN technology. The staff is not imposing any new positions on licensees. This RIS is not providing any new regulatory requirements. This RIS only conveys the NRC's plan to address issues with the current ERDS modem technology. No action is required on the part of any licensee; therefore, this document does not constitute a backfit under 10 CFR 50.109, "Backfitting." Consequently, the staff did not perform a backfit analysis.

Federal Register Notification

Although this RIS is informational and does not represent a departure from current regulatory requirements, a notice of opportunity for public comment on this RIS was published in the **Federal Register** (74 FR xxxxx).

Congressional Review Act

This RIS is not a rule as designated by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801–808) and, therefore, is not subject to the Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This RIS does not contain information collections and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*).

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a current valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Contact

Please direct any questions about this matter to one of the technical contacts listed below:

Glenn M. Tracy, Director, Division of Construction Inspection and Operational Programs, Office of New Reactors;

Timothy J. McGinty, Director, Division of Policy and Rulemaking, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Technical Contacts:

Roberto Figueroa, (301) 415–6075, *E-mail: roberto.figueroa@nrc.gov.*

Robert Stransky, (301) 415–6411, *E-mail: robert.stransky@nrc.gov.*

End of Draft Regulatory Issue Summary

Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if you have problems in accessing the documents in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737 or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of July 2009.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Martin C. Murphy,
Chief, Generic Communications Branch,
Division of Policy and Rulemaking, Office
of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.
 [FR Doc. E9–17164 Filed 7–17–09; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. N2009–1; Order No. 244]

Postal Retail Network Consolidation

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Notice related to postal retail network consolidation initiative.

SUMMARY: This document addresses a recent Postal Service filing seeking Commission action on matters related to a retail network consolidation plan affecting certain postal stations and branches and postal patrons, primarily through consolidation of facilities. It includes information on several related procedural steps, including intervention and a prehearing conference.

DATES: Deadline for notices of intervention, requests for hearings, and required statements: July 28, 2009; prehearing conference (9:30 a.m.): July 30, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Submit filings electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharman, general counsel, 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 2, 2009, the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) filed a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission (Commission) asking for a determination whether a plan to optimize the postal retail network by consolidating the operations of some retail stations and branches into nearby facilities constitutes a change in the nature of postal services, substantially on a nationwide basis, within the meaning of 39 U.S.C. 3661(c).¹ The Postal Service describes the plan as the Postal Service Station and Branch Optimization and Consolidation Initiative (Initiative). Request at 1.

If the Commission determines that the Initiative will likely generate changes in the nature of postal services on a substantially nationwide basis, the Postal Service then requests that the Commission issue an advisory opinion under section 3661(c) which concurs

¹ Request of the United States Postal Service for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in Postal Services, July 2, 2009; and Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing Erratum to Request [Erratum], July 2, 2009 (Request).

that such service changes would conform to the policies reflected in title 39 of the United States Code. *Id.* at 2.

The Postal Service states that the Initiative already began in May with the examination of the portion of the retail network consisting of stations and branches that report to Postmasters at or above the USPS Executive & Administrative Schedule level 24 pay grade. USPS–T–2 at 8. It asserts that the stations and branches that meet this criterion are located primarily in urban and suburban population centers and comprise approximately two-thirds of the over 4,800 stations and branches nationwide. Request at 5–6. The stated objective of the Initiative is to “realign the postal retail network with current and future postal customer service needs, to reduce inefficiency and redundancy, and to capture the resulting cost savings.” *Id.* at 6. The results will be used to inform any decisions on whether to expand the Initiative to a broader pool of stations and branches. *Id.* The Postal Service states that if the Initiative results in a decision to change the nature of any postal service provided at any postal facility, such changes will not be implemented before October 2, 2009. *Id.* at 7.

The Postal Service's Request is accompanied and supported by two pieces of testimony and four library references. The Postal Service states that the reasons underlying the pursuit of the objectives contained within the Initiative are described in the Direct Testimony of Alice M. VanGorder on Behalf of United States Postal Service (USPS–T–1), July 2, 2009. It states that the process to be employed in making decisions to achieve the objectives are described in the Direct Testimony of Kimberly I. Matalik on Behalf of United States Postal Service (USPS–T–2), July 2, 2009. The library references provide public and non-public versions of the official records for the closings of the Buhl, PA classified station² and the Washburn, IA classified branch.³

The Request and all supporting public materials are on file in the

² USPS–LR–N2009–1/1 Official Record to Close the Buhl, PA Classified Station, Docket No. 16146 (Public Version); and USPS–LR–N2009–1/NP1 Official Record to Close the Buhl, PA Classified Station, Docket No. 16146 (Non-Public Version). The public version excludes the names of customers and postal patrons providing comments to the Postal Service.

³ USPS–LR–N2009–1/2 Official Record to Close the Washburn, IA Classified Branch, Docket No. 50706 (Public Version); and USPS–LR–N2009–1/NP2 Official Record to Close the Washburn, IA Classified Branch, Docket No. 50706 (Non-Public Version). The public version excludes the names of customers and postal patrons providing comments to the Postal Service.