The NRC staff has prepared a final EA for license SNM–2011 for the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP), a proposed commercial uranium enrichment facility to be located in Piketon, Ohio. The NRC has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed license amendment in accordance with its regulations. Based on the EA, the NRC has concluded that a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate. The NRC is also conducting a safety evaluation of the proposed license amendment.

DATES: The EA and FONSI referenced in this document are available on June 14, 2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this document (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The NRC is considering a license amendment request (LAR) for license SNM–2011 for the ACP located on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reservation in Piketon, Ohio (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML20139A097 and ML20139A098). The licensee, ACO, is requesting authorization to enrich uranium-235 up to the level necessary to produce High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) pursuant to a contract with DOE. Under the 3-year term of the DOE contract, ACO would operate a cascade consisting of 16 centrifuges for the purpose of demonstrating the commercial viability of HALEU production for potential future use in advanced reactors.

The NRC staff has prepared a final EA as part of its review of this LAR request in accordance with the requirements of Part 51 of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), “Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions.” Based on the final EA, the NRC has determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required for this proposed action and a FONSI is appropriate. The NRC is also conducting a safety evaluation of the proposed license amendment pursuant to 10 CFR part 70, and the results will be documented in a separate Safety Evaluation Report (SER). If ACO’s request is approved, the NRC will issue the license amendment following publication of this final EA and FONSI and the SER in the Federal Register.

II. Final Environmental Assessment Summary

ACO is requesting an amendment to license SNM–2011 to authorize the enrichment of uranium-235 to the level necessary to produce HALEU in a demonstration cascade pursuant to a contract with DOE. The NRC has assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and the no-action alternative. The results of the NRC’s environmental review can be found in the final EA (ADAMS Accession No. ML21085A705). The NRC staff performed its environmental review in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR part 51. In conducting the environmental review, the NRC considered information in the LAR; communications with the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office; as well as information provided by the Ohio Ecological Services Field Office of Fish and Wildlife, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency Region V.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on its review of the proposed action in the EA, in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR part 51, the NRC has concluded that the proposed action, amendment of NRC license SNM–2011 for the American Centrifuge Co., LLC, located in Piketon, Ohio, will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the NRC has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, that preparation of an EIS is not required for the proposed action and a FONSI is appropriate.

Dated: June 8, 2021.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stacey F. Imboden,
and certain assets under multiemployer plans that undergo a mass withdrawal of contributing employers (29 CFR part 4281). In each month immediately preceding the start of a new calendar quarter, PBGC publishes the interest rates to be used under those regulations for plans terminating or undergoing mass withdrawal during the next quarter.

The interest rates are intended to reflect current conditions in the annuity markets. To determine these interest rates, PBGC gathers premium rate data from insurance companies that are providing group annuity contracts to terminating pension plans through a quarterly survey. The American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) distributes the survey and provides PBGC with “blind” data (i.e., PBGC is unable to match responses with the insurance companies that submitted them). PBGC also uses the information from the survey in determining the interest rates it uses to value benefits payable to participants and beneficiaries in PBGC-trusted plans for purposes of PBGC’s financial statements.

PBGC is proposing several changes to the survey distributed by ACLI:
• Addition of a question asking for specific information about the interest assumptions underlying the annuity premium rates reported in parts I and II of the survey. This information is needed to allow PBGC to better analyze annuity price data provided in the survey.
• Increases to the dollar ranges in the questions on respondents’ group annuity business in part III to allow the survey to continue to capture the variability and range of business accepted by respondents as the prices of plan termination annuity contracts increase with inflation.
• Changes to the instructions to clarify that respondents should provide pricing information only for full plan terminations (and transactions priced consistently with full plan terminations), that the annuity premium rates provided should include reductions for investment expenses but exclude administrative expenses, and that respondents should assume that plan provisions are straightforward and do not contain significant levels of anti-selection, expensive options, or subsidies.
• Addition of a confirmation that administrative expenses are excluded from pricing information and an option to comment on any exceptions. This is needed for PBGC to compare pricing information amongst survey responses when respondents are unable to completely exclude administrative expenses from pricing information.
• Consolidation and simplification of former parts III and IV into a new part III and elimination of questions asking for information PBGC no longer uses. These changes streamline and simplify the response process.
• Modification of a question asking for the volume of respondents’ plan termination annuity business so that it requests annual data instead of quarterly data to reduce volatility in survey responses.
• Addition of a question soliciting feedback on how PBGC could improve the survey process.
• Addition of flexibility to conduct the survey electronically.

This voluntary survey is directed at insurance companies most, if not all, of which are members of ACLI. The survey is conducted quarterly and approximately 20 insurance companies will be asked to participate.

The existing collection of information was approved under OMB control number 1212–0030 (expires August 31, 2021). On April 1, 2021, PBGC published in the Federal Register (at 86 FR 17217) a notice informing the public of its intent to request an extension of this collection of information, as modified. No comments were received. PBGC is requesting that OMB extend approval of the collection (with modifications) for three years. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

PBGC estimates that about 6 insurance companies will respond to the survey each quarter, and that each survey will require approximately 30 minutes to complete and return. The total burden is estimated to be 12 hours (30 minutes per survey × 4 surveys per year × 6 respondents per quarter).

Issued in Washington, D.C.

Hilary Duke,
Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Submission of Information Collections for OMB Review; Comment Request; Reportable Events; Notice of Failure To Make Required Contributions

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.