

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff has assessed the potential environmental impacts from ProTechnics' alternate abandonment methods for its irretrievable sealed source within a Gulf of Mexico well. Given the location of the irretrievable sealed source within the Gulf of Mexico well and ProTechnics' proposal to abandon the sealed source there, the NRC staff does not expect potential environmental impacts to the following resource areas: land use, transportation, geology and soils, surface water and ground water, ecology, air quality, noise, historic and cultural resources, socioeconomic, visual and scenic resources, and waste management. As a result, the NRC staff's analysis focused on the potential radiological impacts to the public and occupational health. With respect to ecological resources, the NRC staff determined that the proposed action would have no effect on threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The NRC staff also determined that the proposed action is not the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

As discussed in a 1981 NRC staff risk analysis of potential radiological exposures to workers and members of the public, the NRC staff considered the primary pathway for an irretrievable sealed source to reach the surface would be in the drilling mud associated with drilling operations that struck the source (ADAMS Accession No. ML23158A257). In the 1981 analysis, the NRC staff assumed a conservative probability of 50 percent for striking an abandoned source but recognized that the actual probability was likely much lower. ProTechnics identified three barriers and items that would reduce the potential for its sealed source to be struck, (1) mechanical hardware within the well, (2) the orientation and location of the sealed source, and (3) administrative items (e.g., a permanent identification placard at the wellhead, an annual contact with the well owner, and involvement in the final well abandonment planning stages). The NRC staff agrees that these barriers and items would tend to reduce the probability of striking ProTechnics' irretrievable sealed source to be substantially below 50 percent.

Despite this expected low probability of actually striking ProTechnics' irretrievable sealed source, the NRC staff considered the radiation exposure to operators and members of the public on the drilling rig should the source be struck and the source contents brought

to the surface. In the 1981 risk analysis, the NRC staff considered the potential dose rates on the drill rig from a variety of sources (e.g., Cesium-137, Americium-241, Cobalt-60, Iridium-192) and determined that the worst-case scenario would result in a total population dose of 1.3 person-rem. The NRC staff stated that this radiological impact would be comparable with the exposure allowed for a low probability release of radioactive material from products containing exempt quantities. The NRC staff further noted that its risk analysis did not reflect intervening shielding on the drill rig or any shielding that would be provided by the aqueous nature of the drilling mud, both of which would further reduce any exposure.

For these reasons, the NRC staff considers the potential radiological impacts of ProTechnics' proposed exemption request to abandon its irretrievable sealed source in the Gulf of Mexico well to be minimal and not significant.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

An alternative to the proposed action is the no-action alternative. Under the no-action alternative, the NRC would not grant ProTechnics' alternate abandonment procedures for the irretrievable sealed source in the Gulf of Mexico well. With the no-action alternative, ProTechnics would be required to follow the procedures in 10 CFR 39.15(a)(5) for abandonment of the sealed source. The procedures in 10 CFR 39.15(a)(5) were previously analyzed by the NRC staff and determined to result in no significant environmental impacts (ADAMS Accession No. ML003690504).

Agencies and Persons Consulted

Given the expectation that the irretrievable source would remain within the well and the unlikelihood that the source would be struck by future drilling activities, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. Therefore, no consultation is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Likewise, NRC staff has determined that the proposed action is not the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Therefore, consistent with 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), no consultation is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The NRC staff has concluded that, given the orientation and location of the sealed source, the mechanical barriers in the Gulf of Mexico well, and ProTechnics' identified administrative items, there would be no impacts to land use, transportation, geology and soils, surface water and ground water, ecology, air quality, noise, historic and cultural resources, socioeconomic, visual and scenic resources, and waste management. Additionally, the NRC staff evaluated the potential radiological impacts and found those to be minimal and not significant.

The NRC staff has prepared this EA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action to approve ProTechnics' alternate abandonment procedures for an irretrievable sealed source in a Gulf of Mexico well. Based on this EA, NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts and the exemption request does not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Accordingly, the NRC has determined that a FONSI is appropriate. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.32(a)(4), this FONSI incorporates the EA set forth in this notice by reference.

The final EA is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML23195A051.

Dated: July 20, 2023.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michelle S. Rome,

Acting Chief, Environmental Review Materials Branch, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support, Office of Nuclear Material Safety, and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 2023-15721 Filed 7-24-23; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2022-0170]

Information Collection: Requests to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Information

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of submission to the Office of Management and Budget; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recently submitted a request for renewal of an existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. The information collection is entitled, "Requests to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Information."

DATES: Submit comments by August 24, 2023. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Cullison, NRC Clearance Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–2084; email: Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2022–0170 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2022–0170.

- *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 supporting statement is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML23159A048.

- *NRC’s PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *NRC’s Clearance Officer:* A copy of the collection of information and related instructions may be obtained without charge by contacting the NRC’s Clearance Officer, David C. Cullison, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–2084; email: Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov.

B. Submitting Comments

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information in comment submissions that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. All comment submissions are posted at <https://www.regulations.gov> and entered into ADAMS. Comment submissions are not routinely edited to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the OMB, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that comment submissions are not routinely edited to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Background

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the NRC recently submitted a request for renewal of an existing collection of information to OMB for review entitled, “Requests to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Information.” The NRC hereby informs potential respondents that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and that a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The NRC published a **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period on this information collection on March 8, 2023, 88 FR 14399.

1. *The title of the information collection:* Requests to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Information.
2. *OMB approval number:* 3150–0245.
3. *Type of submission:* Extension.
4. *The form number, if applicable:* Not Applicable.
5. *How often the collection is required or requested:* On occasion.

6. *Who will be required or asked to respond:* Federally recognized Indian Tribes.

7. *The estimated number of annual responses:* 32.

8. *The estimated number of annual respondents:* 637.

9. *The estimated number of hours needed annually to comply with the information collection requirement or request:* 5,120 (15,360 hours over the course of the three-year clearance period (32 responses per request × 20 requests per year × 8 hours per response × 3 years = 15,360 hours)).

10. *Abstract:* NRC actions and NRC regulated activities may affect Indian Tribes and their current or ancestral Tribal lands. On January 9, 2017, the NRC published a Tribal Policy Statement (82 FR 2402). In its Tribal Policy Statement, the NRC indicated that it recognizes the Federal Trust Relationship with Indian Tribes and will uphold its Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes. In its policy statement, the NRC stated that it recognizes and is committed to a government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes. The NRC also indicated that it would engage in timely consultations with Indian Tribes. The NRC is requesting OMB approval of a plan for a generic collection of information. The need and practicality of the collection can be evaluated, but the details of the specific individual collections will not be known until a later time. The information collected will include voluntary requests for information that would allow the NRC to more effectively involve Indian Tribes in the NRC’s regulatory activities and to enable the NRC to plan the NRC’s Tribal outreach and consultation activities.

Dated: July 20, 2023.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David C. Cullison,
NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023–15691 Filed 7–24–23; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

Board of Governors; Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.; Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Washington, DC, at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, in the Benjamin Franklin Room.