

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed amendment is needed to allow the licensee to implement the programmatic controls of GL 89-01, to implement the revised 10 CFR Part 20, to make editorial changes to the Radioactive Effluent Release Report in accordance with 10 CFR 50.36a, and to allow an annual submittal for the Radioactive Effluent Release Report.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 1, 1999, the staff consulted with the New York State official, Jack Spath, of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, 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 February 19, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated July 28, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publically available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

George F. Wunder,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-343 Filed 1-6-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Waste Management, Concerning the Management of Sealed Sources

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise the public of the issuance of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Energy (DOE). The purpose of the MOU is to address the problem of unwanted and uncontrolled radioactive materials, often referred to as "orphan sources". The MOU defines the agreed-upon roles and responsibilities of the NRC and DOE in situations involving orphan sources where the NRC is responsible for leading the Federal response, where immediate health and safety hazards have been addressed, and where assistance with the transfer of the

radioactive material is determined to be necessary for continued protection of public health and safety and the environment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 18, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of all NRC documents are available for public inspection, and copying for a fee, in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC. The NRC Public Document Room is open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Telephone service is provided from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at 202-634-3273 or toll-free at 1-800-397-4209.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas A. Broaddus, NMSS, Mail Stop T8-F5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20005-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-5847; Fax: (301) 415-5369; e-mail: dab@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Donald A. Cool,

Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Waste Management, Concerning Management of Sealed Sources

I. Introduction

The Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) provides guidance for the response of Federal agencies in peacetime radiological emergencies that have actual, potential, or perceived radiological consequences within the United States, its Territories, possessions, or territorial waters. Although the FRERP encompasses a broad range of radiological emergencies, it does not provide specific actions that each agency must take when a radiological emergency is identified. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defines the roles and responsibilities between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Energy (DOE) in situations where the NRC is responsible for the Federal response to a radiological emergency, but that does not require an immediate response (*i.e.*, activation of the NRC Incident Response Plan as described in NRC Management Directive 8.2), and where the transfer of licensed source, special nuclear, or byproduct radioactive material—as defined under the Atomic Energy Act of

1954, as amended (the Act)—primarily in the form of sealed sources and devices as described in section IV. B., to the DOE is determined to be necessary to protect the public health and safety and the environment.

II. Background

This MOU formally defines the activities carried out since 1992 under agreements reached via exchange of correspondence between NRC and DOE. The need for this agreement arose due to the fact that licensed radioactive material which exceeds the Class C limits defined in § 61.55, Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is not acceptable for disposal at commercial disposal sites. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-240) made DOE responsible for the ultimate disposition of this material. Until such time as the DOE has in place a disposal or routine acceptance and storage capability for the various types of this material, this agreement is necessary to allow transfer of material which exceeds Class C limits from NRC and Agreement State licensees to the DOE in limited situations which pose an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety.

Under limited situations, described in more detail in Section IV. A. of this agreement, DOE will consider accepting material at the request of NRC which does not exceed Class C limits, but only under situations where there is an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety that cannot be mitigated by other reasonable means.

III. Purpose

This MOU applies to the recovery and disposition of byproduct, source, and special nuclear material in the possession of licensees and in the public domain by the DOE at the request of NRC. Although this MOU is intended to apply to these materials in the form of sealed sources, it is envisioned that under rare circumstances this MOU will apply to the recovery and disposition of radioactive materials in other forms, as described in section IV. B. In addition, this agreement applies only to material in the private sector, licensed by NRC or an Agreement State, which represents an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety.

The determination of an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety will be made by the NRC as described in this MOU, in consultation with and participation by DOE, and may be based on such factors as condition of the material, environmental conditions that may affect the containment of the

material, or loss of adequate controls by the licensee because of financial, technical, or other reasons. This MOU represents the process by which NRC may request assistance of DOE to mitigate or eliminate an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety from sealed sources and devices, after all other reasonable alternatives have been unsuccessfully explored.

This MOU does not apply to situations where the DOE has in-place the required capabilities for routine acceptance, storage, and/or disposal of material which exceeds the limits of § 61.55, 10 CFR as specified in Pub. L. 99-240. Any agreements required under those situations will be entered into separately or as a specific modification of this MOU. In addition, this MOU does not apply to situations which require activation of the NRC Incident Response Plan, nor does it apply to safeguards or reactor incidents.

IV. Scope

A. Types of Radioactive Materials

This agreement is limited to only those radioactive materials which are defined under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, as source, special nuclear, or byproduct materials. This agreement does not have the authority to require the NRC or DOE to respond to non-emergency situations, pursuant to this MOU, involving radioactive materials or to respond to emergency situations which do not involve materials regulated by the NRC.

This agreement is primarily intended to provide, under emergency situations as described in this MOU, for the proper recovery and disposition by the DOE of radioactive materials that are regulated by NRC that exceed Class C waste limits defined in § 61.55, 10 CFR. Radioactive materials which do not exceed Class C limits are also covered by this agreement in circumstances that represent an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety and for which there are no other reasonable alternatives to mitigate the threat. NRC and DOE will consider situations involving radioactive material which does not exceed Class C limits on a case-by-case basis as described in section IV. E., or other agreed upon procedures.

Routine acceptance of material that does not exceed Class C limits is not a part of this MOU and would fall under the authority of the States in accordance with the intent of Pub. L. 99-240. No activities contained in this MOU are intended to undermine the authorities and responsibilities of the States as defined in Pub. L. 99-240. Further, situations which would be considered

an emergency solely due to the lack of access to a compact or regional disposal site are not part of this MOU. These situations are covered in the emergency access provisions of Pub. L. 99-240 and must be addressed in accordance with 10 CFR Part 62. The purpose of 10 CFR Part 62 is to mitigate any serious or immediate threat to the public health and safety due to denial of access to a low-level waste disposal facility.

B. Form of Radioactive Material

This agreement primarily addresses the radioactive materials defined in section IV. A. in the form of sealed sources or in devices containing sealed sources. In general, the material must also be a form that is readily transportable, does not require significant special handling or unique handling equipment or capabilities, and is confined to a single location. Material forms which are determined to be outside these conditions will be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with section IV. E., or other agreed upon procedures.

C. Quantity of Radioactive Material

It is envisioned that most cases covered under this MOU will involve only a small number of sealed sources or devices, usually less than ten, and only relatively small licensees. Quantities of radioactive material contained in individual sealed sources or devices should not exceed the maximum authorized on the sealed source or device vendor's license. Situations involving significantly greater numbers of sealed sources or devices or large scale licensees will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the NRC and DOE in accordance with section IV. E., or other agreed upon procedures. Radioactive materials shall not be combined or altered for the sole purpose of meeting the conditions of this MOU.

D. Nature of the Threat to the Public and Response Required

This agreement does not apply to emergency situations requiring an immediate response, to situations for which immediate health and safety concerns have not been mitigated or to situations for which the NRC would not be designated as the Lead Federal Agency (LFA) for the federal response to a radiological emergency. This MOU addresses situations which the NRC determines, in consultation with DOE, represent an actual or potential threat to the public health and safety. The level of response required under this MOU will be based on an assessment of the potential health and safety

consequences of the situation (e.g., amount of material involved, potential for radiation exposure or releases of radioactive material, and potential impact on the environment).

The authorities and responsibilities of certain Federal agencies (including NRC and DOE) for responding to radiological emergencies are specified in the FRERP. Activities under this MOU must be consistent with the FRERP for responses to radiological emergencies and must not interfere with or take precedence over FRERP activities. In addition, actions necessary to mitigate an emergency requiring an immediate response, or to mitigate an immediate health and safety threat (radiological or otherwise)—including temporary control over radioactive material—must be taken prior to any DOE recovery or disposition activities.

Assistance by DOE to recover and manage the material may only be requested by NRC after all other reasonable alternatives to alleviate the situation are addressed. In addition, NRC shall identify the response requested of DOE. DOE shall determine the appropriate response to ensure the present or potential threat is mitigated or eliminated in such situations where existing controls may not be adequate to ensure long-term assurance of the public health and safety.

E. Exceptions to the Primary Intent of This MOU

The purpose of section IV, Scope, is to define the bounds of this agreement in specific terms. Paragraphs A–C of this section indicate that exceptions to the conditions of this agreement may be necessary. The reason for these exceptions is that it is recognized that situations involving actual or potential health and safety threats requiring DOE assistance will not be limited to only small quantities of sealed sources which exceed the Class C limits as defined in 10 CFR Part 61.55.

In situations where the materials involved do not meet the specific conditions described in paragraphs A–C above, but DOE assistance is determined by NRC to be necessary, then the NRC shall document the reason why it is appropriate to respond to the particular situation under the terms of this MOU, document why DOE assistance is necessary for the particular situation, and provide this information to DOE. The DOE shall review this information and document the response it intends to take based upon the information provided, and provide this information to the NRC. So as to not delay a response to a request for assistance, this exchange of information may take place

electronically, so long as hardcopy follow-up is provided.

F. Other Limitations

This agreement, and subsequent DOE recovery and disposition actions, are generally limited to packaging, transport, and/or receipt of radioactive materials, and the associated requirements to conduct those activities.

This agreement is not intended to require or imply that DOE will provide decontamination or clean-up activities, except as a direct result of a DOE recovery operation, nor will DOE be expected to perform recovery or disposition actions for materials other than those specifically identified in this document.

This MOU does not apply to requests for radiological assistance from DOE Radiological Assistance Program teams.

V. Authority and Regulatory Programs

A. NRC

NRC is responsible for licensing and regulating nuclear facilities and material and for conducting research in support of the licensing and regulatory process, as mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended; in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; and other applicable statutes. NRC responsibilities include protecting public health and safety, protecting the environment, and safeguarding nuclear materials in the interest of national security.

The Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) was established under Section 204 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, and is charged with the responsibility of protecting the public health and safety through regulatory control of the safe use of byproduct, source, or special nuclear material, for medical, industrial, academic, and commercial uses. To accomplish this goal, NMSS uses licensing, inspection, enforcement, development and implementation of regulations, guidance and policy, safety reviews for products that use the material (including sealed sources and devices), and other means available according to 10 CFR.

B. Agreement States

Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, provides the NRC the authority to discontinue its regulatory authority over certain radioactive materials (including sealed sources and devices) within a State that has agreed to establish and maintain a regulatory program for the materials that

is adequate to protect the public health and safety, and is compatible with NRC's program. States that have been found to meet these criteria and have entered into such agreements with NRC are called Agreement States. These Agreement States have independent authority to regulate the radioactive materials specified in the agreement within their boundaries, and are charged with protecting the public health and safety through the licensing, regulation, and enforcement of activities associated with the materials.

Under Pub. L. 99–240, each State is responsible for providing for the disposal of radioactive material which does not exceed a waste Classification of C that is generated within its boundaries. In addition, State and local governments have primary responsibility for determining and implementing appropriate measures to protect life, property, and the environment from radiological and other hazards.

C. DOE

DOE is responsible for conducting research and development, and other activities, to support the use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials for medical, biological, health, and other uses as mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended; the Department of Energy Organization Act, as amended; and other applicable statutes.

DOE is responsible for the disposal of radioactive material which exceeds a waste Classification of C as defined in § 61.55, 10 CFR as mandated by Pub. L. 99–240. DOE is required to assure the public health and safety as mandated by Section 102(13) of the Department of Energy Organization Act, as amended, and is responsible jointly with NRC for the development of contingency plans to recall or recapture radioactive materials under Section 204(b)(2)(B) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended. In addition, DOE is granted the authority to take, requisition, condemn, or otherwise acquire any special nuclear, source, or byproduct material as authorized by Sections 55, 66, and 81, respectively, of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

VI. Agency Responsibilities and Agreements

NRC and DOE staffs will closely coordinate actions in both the planning and execution phases to: (1) ensure a timely response where DOE assistance is necessary; (2) provide adequate protection of the health and safety of the public and occupational workers

involved in responding to requests for assistance; and (3) ensure cost effective operations. Each agency will develop, in consultation with the other, appropriate procedures as necessary to implement this agreement. Each agency will designate the organization and key personnel responsible for the day-to-day coordination and management of activities covered by this MOU.

A. NRC Responsibilities

1. Upon discovery of a potential radioactive material incident concerning NRC or Agreement State licensed material in an uncontrolled condition that does not require activation of the NRC Incident Response Plan, the NRC regional and headquarters offices will follow the procedures contained in NRC Manual Chapter (MC) 1301, "Response to Radioactive Material Incidents that do not Require Activation of the NRC Incident Response Plan," or Policy and Guidance Directive (P&GD) 9-12, "Reviewing Efforts to Dispose of Licensed Material and Requesting DOE Assistance," as applicable.

a. Manual Chapter 1301 is applicable to this MOU in situations where licensed material is in an uncontrolled condition in an unrestricted area and a responsible party cannot be readily identified. Incidents applicable to MC 1301 may include locations which are unlicensed, as well as licensed locations where the licensee is not authorized to possess the radioactive material. When requesting assistance of DOE is considered for these type incidents, MC 1301 will be consulted for the procedures and guidance to follow for determining whether DOE assistance is appropriate and necessary. Once DOE assistance is determined to be appropriate and necessary, MC 1303, "Requesting Emergency Acceptance of Radioactive Material by DOE," will be consulted for the procedures for making the request.

b. P&GD 9-12 is applicable to this MOU in situations where an NRC or Agreement State licensee is unable to safely maintain control over its licensed material, or there is a high potential for the licensee to lose control of its licensed material. NRC and Agreement State license reviewers will use this document to determine if DOE assistance with the material is appropriate and necessary, and for making the request. This document contains, in part, guidance for determining the need for DOE assistance based on an evaluation of:

(1) whether viable options are available for recovery and disposition of the radioactive material, (2) the licensee's ability to adequately maintain

control over the material and available options for achieving this, and (3) whether the material is causing or has a high potential to cause a significant health and safety risk to members of the public.

2. Upon determining that DOE assistance is likely, NRC staff shall consult with DOE staff to: (1) provide appropriate information available on the incident (e.g., information listed in Enclosure 1 to P&GD 9-12 or MC 1303); (2) determine if any additional information is needed; and (3) identify any special conditions or requirements concerning the incident.

3. Upon determining that DOE assistance is appropriate and necessary, NRC staff shall formally request DOE assistance in accordance with MC 1303 or P&GD 9-12, as applicable. These documents specify the procedure for making an official request for DOE assistance, information that is to be provided to DOE (e.g., sealed source identification and condition information, licensee name, point of contact, applicable historical information, etc.), the DOE addressee for the request, and follow-up actions after the request is made. Prior to issuance of the formal request, NRC will notify the applicable DOE staff (via phone or electronic media) that the request is being made.

4. Prior and subsequent to requesting DOE assistance, NRC will determine the extent of assistance that other parties involved are responsible for, or are able to, provide for the recovery of the material to minimize the cost to the government. Examples include providing for the packaging and/or transport of the material.

5. Agreement States seeking DOE assistance applicable to this MOU shall make all requests through NRC, following the guidance in MC 1301, MC 1303, or P&GD 9-12. NRC staff will evaluate the Agreement State's request and determine if all applicable information has been provided and if requesting DOE assistance is appropriate and necessary. NRC will not forward the request to DOE until the request contains complete information and provides sufficient justification for requesting DOE assistance, and will work with the Agreement State to obtain this information. NRC will make all requests for DOE assistance under this MOU on behalf of the Agreement States and shall serve as the single point-of-contact for evaluating the requests in accordance with this MOU.

6. NRC shall arrange for transfer of title of the recovered materials to DOE or to other parties who will take

possession of the material, as designated by DOE.

7. Within its regulatory authority, NRC will ensure, and expedite where appropriate, license and/or certification reviews and amendments are performed as necessary to support safe and timely recovery of the materials and to minimize costs to the government incurred in recovery and shipment operations.

8. NRC shall coordinate the efforts of non-DOE involved parties in recovery operations, and participate, as appropriate and necessary, to ensure adequate protection of public/worker health and safety, and to ensure regulatory compliance, as applicable.

B. DOE Responsibilities

1. DOE staff will participate and consult with NRC in the determination process for requesting DOE assistance.

2. Upon receipt of a formal request for assistance, DOE will review the request against the requirements of this agreement, Departmental policies in effect at the time of the request, changes in legislative authority which may affect actions requested, and expected cost versus available funds to carry out the requested action. DOE will review each request to ensure all reasonable options for disposition have been exhausted prior to providing assistance. Upon completion of this review, DOE will notify NRC of the action it will take.

3. Upon acceptance of a request for assistance, DOE shall identify, package, transfer, receive, and/or store the radioactive material at a DOE or other appropriate facility; or contract with appropriately licensed firms for these services.

4. DOE will coordinate, through NRC, with the licensee and/or local authorities and other agencies, as appropriate, regarding the details of the recovery operations and provide information on progress and status.

5. DOE will take title of the radioactive material either at the material pickup location or at the designated receiving site, as determined on a case-by-case basis, or ensure title is transferred to appropriate parties contracted for services.

6. DOE may review procedures that NRC uses to determine: (1) that material is an imminent threat to the public health and safety; (2) that all available options for disposition of the material have been exhausted; and (3) that a request for DOE assistance with radioactive material is appropriate and in accordance with this MOU.

7. DOE will plan and budget, as appropriate, for its costs to provide for

reasonably expected requests under this agreement.

8. DOE shall utilize its field elements, contractors, laboratories, and facilities, and private industry, as required, in recovery and disposition operations, for the safe, timely, and efficient conduct of these operations. The use of these facilities is limited to those sites with appropriate capabilities and compliance with applicable regulations, as well as necessary funding. If such a site or necessary funds are not available, DOE will consult with NRC and/or other Federal and State agencies to determine if managing the material may be accomplished by other means.

C. Coordination Officers

Each agency shall designate an individual(s) who will serve as the respective coordination officer(s), or point(s) of contact (POC). The POCs will coordinate and facilitate actions required by their respective agencies. Additionally, they will establish and maintain a call list (names, phone, and fax numbers) of responsible persons for day-to-day contact on any matter related to this MOU, and shall provide this call list to each other, as requested and appropriate.

VII. Elements of Coordination

A. Information Exchange

Both agencies agree to exchange information with respect to relevant programs and lessons learned. The purpose of the exchanges is to provide expert technical assistance to both agencies and to assist either agency by reducing or eliminating duplication of effort. The sharing of information between DOE and NRC (and Agreement States as appropriate) will be exercised to the extent authorized by law (i.e. NRC and DOE directives, statutes, and regulations), and will be consistent with each agencies' missions.

Both agencies recognize the need to protect from public disclosure, data and information that are exchanged between them, which fall within the definition of trade secrets, and confidential commercial or financial information. Both agencies agree to exchange proprietary information in accordance with applicable regulations and their regulatory authority. If a request calls for a disclosure determination regarding proprietary information obtained from either agency, such as a Freedom of Information Act request or response to a Congressional inquiry—or either agency must comply with various regulatory or public information responsibilities—the agency responsible for the information will be promptly

notified, by the other agency, of the need for disclosure of the information. The responsible agency will make any needed contact with the submitter of the protected information and will accept the responsibility for evaluating the submitter's comments, before rendering the disclosure determination.

B. Sharing Other Information

DOE and NRC will also offer each other the opportunity to comment on regulations, regulatory guides, or other communications that refer to activities, policies, or regulations of the other agency, that are relevant to this agreement. If practicable, the documents will be provided for comment prior to issuance.

Either agency may request additional information, when such is deemed necessary to complete its mission.

VIII. Meetings

A. Annual Inter-Agency Meeting

The following are the offices and officers responsible for this agreement:

1. For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T8-A23, Washington, D.C. 20555; Telephone: (301) 415-7800.

2. For the U.S. Department of Energy: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, Mail Stop 5B-040/FORS, Washington, D.C. 20585; Telephone: (202) 586-0307.

The DOE and NRC responsible officers, or their designated representatives, shall meet at least annually to evaluate the activities related to this MOU and make recommendations to agency heads on its effectiveness. DOE and NRC will host the meeting on alternating years.

B. Coordination Officers

Coordination officers, POCs, or their designated representatives, shall meet, on a semiannual basis, to discuss technical issues related to this MOU, review the status of actions underway or planned, discuss any problems or issues, and recommend necessary changes. DOE and NRC shall host the meeting on alternate dates.

IX. Other Laws and Matters

Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed to restrict, modify, or otherwise limit the application or enforcement of any laws of the United States with respect to matters specified herein, nor shall anything in the MOU be construed as modifying, restricting, or directing the existing authority of either agency.

Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed to establish any right nor provide a basis for any action, either legal or equitable, by any person or class or persons challenging a government action or a failure to act.

This MOU shall not be used to obligate or commit funds or as the basis for the transfer of funds.

X. Effective Date, Modification, and Termination of MOU

This MOU may be further implemented by supplementary agreements in which authorized representatives of DOE and NRC may further amplify or otherwise modify the policy or provisions in the memorandum or any of its supplements, provided that any material modifications of the provisions or any of its supplements shall be subject to the approval of the authorized signatories of this memorandum or their designated representatives.

This MOU will take effect when it has been signed and dated by the authorized representatives of DOE and NRC. It may be modified by mutual written consent, or terminated by either agency upon 60 days advance written notice. The agencies agree to reevaluate this MOU at least every five years, at which time either agency has the option of renewing, modifying, or terminating this MOU.

Approved and accepted for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Carl J. Paperiello,

Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

Dated: June 18, 1999.

Approved and accepted for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Mark W. Frei,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management, Environmental Management.

Dated: December 18, 1998.

[FR Doc. 00-344 Filed 1-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical