

to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The draft guide, temporarily identified by its task number, DG-3011, "Use of Fixed Neutron Absorbers at Fuels and Materials Facilities," is planned for Division 3, "Fuels and Materials Facilities." This regulatory guide is being developed to provide guidance that is acceptable to the NRC staff on procedures for preventing criticality accidents by using fixed neutron absorbers in operations involving handling, storing, and transporting special nuclear fuel at fuels and materials facilities.

The draft guide has not received complete staff review and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

Public comments are being solicited on the guide. Comments should be accompanied by supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Comments will be most helpful if received by June 20, 1997.

Although a time limit is given for comments on this draft guide, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

Comments may be submitted electronically, in either ASCII text or Wordperfect format (version 5.1 or later), by calling the NRC Electronic Bulletin Board on FedWorld. The bulletin board may be accessed using a personal computer, a modem, and one of the commonly available communications software packages, or directly via Internet.

If using a personal computer and modem, the NRC subsystem on FedWorld can be accessed directly by dialing the toll free number: 1-800-303-9672. Communication software parameters should be set as follows: parity to none, data bits to 8, and stop bits to 1 (N,8,1). Using ANSI or VT-100 terminal emulation, the NRC NUREGs and RegGuides for Comment subsystem can then be accessed by selecting the "Rules Menu" option from the "NRC Main Menu." For further information

about options available for NRC at FedWorld, consult the "Help/Information Center" from the "NRC Main Menu." Users will find the "FedWorld Online User's Guides" particularly helpful. Many NRC subsystems and data bases also have a "Help/Information Center" option that is tailored to the particular subsystem.

The NRC subsystem on FedWorld can also be accessed by a direct dial phone number for the main FedWorld BBS, 703-321-3339, or by using Telnet via Internet, fedworld.gov. If using 703-321-3339 to contact FedWorld, the NRC subsystem will be accessed from the main FedWorld menu by selecting the "Regulatory, Government Administration and State Systems," then selecting "Regulatory Information Mall." At that point, a menu will be displayed that has an option "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission" that will take you to the NRC Online main menu. The NRC Online area also can be accessed directly by typing "/go nrc" at a FedWorld command line. If you access NRC from FedWorld's main menu, you may return to FedWorld by selecting the "Return to FedWorld" option from the NRC Online Main Menu. However, if you access NRC at FedWorld by using NRC's toll-free number, you will have full access to all NRC systems but you will not have access to the main FedWorld system.

If you contact FedWorld using Telnet, you will see the NRC area and menus, including the Rules menu. Although you will be able to download documents and leave messages, you will not be able to write comments or upload files (comments). If you contact FedWorld using FTP, all files can be accessed and downloaded but uploads are not allowed; all you will see is a list of files without descriptions (normal Gopher look). An index file listing all files within a subdirectory, with descriptions, is included. There is a 15-minute time limit for FTP access.

Although FedWorld can be accessed through the World Wide Web, like FTP that mode only provides access for downloading files and does not display the NRC Rules menu.

For more information on NRC bulletin boards call Mr. Arthur Davis, Systems Integration and Development Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301)415-5780; e-mail AXD3@nrc.gov. For more information on this draft regulatory guide, contact S. Parra at the NRC, telephone (301)415-6433; e-mail SAP@nrc.gov.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW.,

Washington, DC. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Distribution and Mail Services Section; or by fax at (301)415-2260. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of March 1997.

Bill M. Morris,

*Director, Division of Regulatory Applications
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

[FR Doc. 97-8832 Filed 4-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Standard Review Plan for Applications for Licenses To Distribute Byproduct Material to Persons Exempt From the Requirements for an NRC License

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing the completion and availability of NUREG-1562 which contains a draft of "Standard Review Plan for Applications for Licenses to Distribute Byproduct Material to Persons Exempt from the Requirements for an NRC License (10 CFR 30.14, 30.15, 30.16, 30.18, 30.19, and 30.20)" for review and comment.

ADDRESSES: Copies of NUREG-1562 may be obtained by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20402-9328. A copy of the document is also available for inspection and/or copying in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW, Washington, DC, 20555-0001. NUREG-1562 can be accessed from the Sealed Sources and Devices Bulletin Board System (SSD BBS) on the FedWorld System. NRC has established a toll-free number that allows access to only the NRC portion of FedWorld at (800) 303-9672. For questions regarding the use of the NRC portion of FedWorld in general, please call Arthur Davis of the NRC at (301) 415-5780.

Written comments should be received at the address listed below within 90 days from the date of this notice.

Comments received after the due date will be considered to the extent practical.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan L. Greene, Mail Stop TWFN 8-F-5, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Telephone (301) 415-7843.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NRC has prepared NUREG-1562, "Standard Review Plan for Applications for Licenses to Distribute Byproduct Material to Persons Exempt from the Requirements for an NRC License (10 CFR 30.14, 30.15, 30.16, 30.18, 30.19, and 30.20)" to provide assistance to applicants and licensees in preparing license applications and describes the methods acceptable to NRC license reviewers in implementing the regulations and the techniques used by the reviewers in evaluating the applications to determine if the proposed exempt distribution activity is acceptable for licensing purposes. The standard review plan will be revised periodically, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and to reflect new information and experience. The document is being made available to interested members of the public.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of March 1997.

Larry W. Camper,

Chief, Medical Academic and Commercial, Use Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-8830 Filed 4-4-97; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

January 1997 Pay Adjustments

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The rates of basic pay and locality payments for certain categories of Federal employees were adjusted in January 1997, as authorized by the President. This notice documents those pay adjustments for the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Herzberg, Office of Compensation Policy, Human Resources Systems Service, Office of Personnel Management, (202) 606-2858, FAX (202) 606-4264, or email to payleave@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 22, 1996, the President transmitted to Congress an alternative plan under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 5304a that established the January 1997 locality pay adjustments for General Schedule (GS) employees in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. On December 27, 1996, the President signed Executive Order 13033 (62 FR 252). This order implemented increases in rates of basic pay for various categories of Federal employees effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1997, as required by 5 U.S.C. 5303. The 1997 General Schedule, reflecting the 2.3-percent general increase, was published in Schedule 1 of Executive Order 13033. Executive Order 13033 also included the percentage amounts of the 1997 locality payments as established by the President's alternative plan of November 22, 1996. (See Section 5 and Schedule 9 of Executive order 13033.) The publication of this notice satisfies the requirement in section 5(b) of Executive Order 13033 that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publish appropriate notice of the 1997 locality payments in **Federal Register**.

Locality payments are authorized for General Schedule employees under 5 U.S.C. 5304 and 5304a. They apply in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. In 1997, there are 30 separate locality pay areas with locality payments ranging from 4.81 percent to 11.52 percent. These 1997 locality pay percentages, which replaced the locality pay percentages that were applicable in 1996, became effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1997. An employee's locality-adjusted annual rate of pay is computed by increasing his or her scheduled annual rate of basic pay (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5302(8) and 5 CFR 531.602) by the applicable locality pay percentage. (See 5 CFR 531.604 and 531.605.)

On December 5, 1996, the Director of OPM, on behalf of the President's Pay Agent, extended the 1997 locality-based comparability payments to the same Governmentwide and single-agency categories of non-GS employees that were authorized to receive the 1996 locality payments. The Governmentwide categories include members of the Senior Executive Service (SES), the Foreign Service, and the Senior Foreign Service; employees in senior-level (SL) and scientific or professional (ST) positions; administrative law judges; and members of Boards of Contracts Appeals.

Public Law 104-208, September 30, 1996, provided that there would be no increase in the rates of basic pay for the Executive Schedule. By law, the maximum rate of basic pay for members of the SES may not exceed level IV of the Executive Schedule. The President has established six rates of basic pay for members of the SES with the maximum SES rate of basic pay (ES-6) equivalent to the rate of basic pay for level IV (currently \$115,700). (See 5 U.S.C. 5382(b) and Schedule 5 of Executive Order 13033.) Schedule 4 of Executive Order 13033 reflects a decision by the President to increase the rates of basic pay for members of the SES by 2.3 percent at levels ES-1 through ES-4. Since level IV of the Executive Schedule was not increased, the new rate of basic pay for ES-5 is \$115,700 (an increase of about 1.5 percent), and the rate of basic pay for ES-6 rate remains unchanged at \$115,700.

The minimum rate of basic pay for senior-level (SL) and scientific or professional (ST) positions increased by 2.3 percent (to \$85,073) because it is calculated as a percentage of the minimum rate of basic pay for GS-15 of the General Schedule. The maximum rate of basic pay for SL and ST positions remains unchanged because it is linked to level IV of the Executive Schedule (\$115,700), which remains unchanged. Rates of basic pay for administrative law judges and members of Boards of Contract Appeals remain unchanged in 1997 because these rates are calculated as a percentage of the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule, which remains unchanged.

OPM has published "Salary Table No. 97" (OPM Doc. 124-48-6, January 1997), which provides complete salary tables incorporating the 1997 pay adjustments, information on general pay administration matters, locality pay area definitions, Internal Revenue Service withholding tables, and other related information. The rates of pay shown in "Salary Table No. 97" are the official rates of pay for affected employees and are hereby incorporated as part of this notice. Copies of "Salary Table No. 97" may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO) by calling (202) 512-1800 or FAX at (202) 512-2250. Copies of Salary Table 97" may also be ordered online from GPO at http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/sale/prf/prf.html. In addition, individual pay schedules may be downloaded directly from OPM's electronic bulletin board, which is reached by dialing via modem (202) 606-4800. Pay tables may also be downloaded from OPM's Internet web cite at <http://www.opm.gov/pay>.