

without further order or proceedings. If an extension of time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the provisions specified in Section IV shall be final when the extension expires if a hearing request has not been received. An answer or a request for hearing shall not stay the immediate effectiveness of this Order.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of January 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Edward L. Jordan,  
*Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Effectiveness, Program Oversight, Investigations, and Enforcement.*

[FR Doc. 97-1857 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

**[Docket No. STN 50-530]**

**Arizona Public Service Company; Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to Facility Operating License No. NPF-74, issued to Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee), for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 3 located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Environmental Assessment**

**Identification of the Proposed Action**

The proposed action would allow a temporary exemption for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Unit 3, from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.44, 10 CFR 50.46, and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix K. The proposed action would permit the use of up to three lead fuel assemblies containing fuel rods clad with advanced Zirconium-based alloys in PVNGS Unit 3 for Cycles 7, 8, and 9.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated September 12, 1996.

**The Need for the Proposed Action**

The proposed action is needed to allow testing of representative cladding material whose chemical composition falls outside the ASTM specifications for Zircaloy. The regulations currently specify the use of Zircaloy or ZIRLO cladding material. The proposed action would allow testing to collect data to support future regulation changes to allow full batch use of the new cladding material.

**Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action**

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, that the exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest. The proposed material is very similar to current cladding materials used in the core and, core neutronics, mechanics, hydraulics and materials integrity will not be affected by the use of the test assemblies.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

**Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would reduce operational flexibility and would not change current environmental impacts.

**Alternative Use of Resources**

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station dated February 1982.

**Agencies and Persons Consulted**

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 21, 1997, the staff consulted with the Arizona State official, Mr. William Wright of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission 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 September 12, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of January 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
James W. Clifford,  
*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate IV-2, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-1858 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

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**[Project No. 697]**

**Notice of Public Meeting on DOE's Proposal to Produce Tritium in Commercial Light-Water Reactors**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will hold a public meeting regarding the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposal for production of tritium in commercial light-water reactors. This meeting is to provide an opportunity for public comment on the technical issues regarding the DOE proposal and to ensure that the public is aware of the staff's review activities early in the proposal evaluation process. The meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 1997, in the auditorium located within the Two White Flint North building at 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Maryland. The meeting will be transcribed and will be open to the public.

The structure of the meeting shall be as follows:

Tuesday, February 25, 1997:

- 1:00 p.m.—NRC opening remarks
- 1:15 p.m.—DOE program description
- 2:45 p.m.—NRC review description
- 3:00 p.m.—Break
- 3:15 p.m.—Public comments
- 4:55 p.m.—Concluding statement
- 5:00 p.m.—Meeting adjourns

Members of the public who are interested in presenting comments relative to DOE's tritium program should notify the project manager, at the

number given below, 5 working days prior to the meeting. A brief summary of the information to be presented and the time requested should be provided in order to make appropriate arrangements. Time allotted for presentations by members of the public will be determined based upon the number of requests received and will be announced at the beginning of the meeting. Time permitting, additional, unscheduled presentations will be considered. The order for public presentations will be on a first-received, first-to-speak basis. Written statements will also be accepted and included in the record of the meeting. Written statements may be mailed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mailstop O-10H5, Attn: J. H. Wilson, Washington, DC 20555 or presented at the meeting.

Requests for the opportunity to present information can be made by contacting J. H. Wilson, Project Manager, Division of Reactor Program Management at (301) 415-1108. Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the project manager 1 or 2 days prior to the meeting to be advised of any changes.

For further details with respect to this action, see the DOE's "Submittal of Tritium Producing Burnable Absorber Rod Lead Test Assembly Topical Report" dated December 3, 1996 and the staff's Request for Additional Information and Supplemental Request for Additional Information dated January 3 and 13, 1997, respectively, all of which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of January, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Thomas T. Martin,  
*Director, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-1859 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL(S):

- (1) *Collection title:* Repayment of Debt.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* G-421f.
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0169.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* February 28, 1997.
- (5) *Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* Individuals or households.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 300.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 300.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 25.
- (10) *Collection description:* Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act provides for payment of annuities to retired or disabled railroad employees, their spouses, and eligible survivors. When the RRB determines that an overpayment of RRA benefits has occurred, it initiates prompt action to notify the claimant of the overpayment and to recover the amount owed. The collection obtains information needed to allow for repayment by the claimant by credit card, in addition to the customary form of payment by check or money order.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:

Copies of the form and supporting documents can be obtained from Chuck Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 and the OMB reviewer, Laura Oliven (202-395-7316), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Chuck Mierzwa,

*Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-1912 Filed 1-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

### Sunshine Act Meeting

The meeting of the Railroad Retirement Board which was to be held on January 22, 1997, 9:00 a.m., at the Board's meeting room on the 8th floor of its headquarters building, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60611, has been rescheduled to January 29, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. The agenda for this meeting was published at FR 1139 on January 8, 1997.

The entire meeting will be open to the public. The person to contact for more information is Beatrice Ezerski, Secretary to the Board, Phone No. 312-751-4920.

Dated: January 22, 1997.

Beatrice Ezerski,

*Secretary to the Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-1998 Filed 1-23-97; 11:03 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No: IC-22474; 812-10230]

### Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company, et al.

January 17, 1997.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of application for an order pursuant to the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act").

**APPLICANTS:** Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company ("Principal Mutual"), Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company Variable Life Separate Account ("Account") and Princor Financial Services Corporation ("Princor").

**RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS:** Order requested under Section 11(a) of the 1940 Act.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATION:** Applicants request an order under Section 11(a) of the 1940 Act approving an exchange offer in which certain variable universal life insurance policies issued by Principal Mutual and offered through the Account ("Old Policies") may be exchanged for new variable universal life insurance policies issued by Principal Mutual and offered through the Account ("New Policies," collectively with Old Policies, "Policies").

**FILING DATE:** The application was filed on July 1, 1996, and amended on December 20, 1996.

**HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING:** An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission and serving Applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on February 12, 1997, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the requester's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons may request notification of a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street,