

Uranium Mining Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated February 1997 (NUREG-1508), provide the basis for NRC's decision to issue a 10 CFR Part 40 source material license to HRI. The staff will issue a license to HRI 30 days from issuance of the SER. The license will authorize HRI to construct and operate in situ leach (ISL) mining facilities at the Crownpoint Project for a period of five years. In preparing the SER, the NRC staff reviewed HRI's license application submittals and its Consolidated Operations Plan, Revision 2.0 (dated August 15, 1997), against the applicable regulations in 10 CFR parts 19, 20, 40, and 71. The SER supports the NRC staff's finding that issuing the license to HRI will be in accordance with the aforementioned regulations, and with all applicable safety requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), as amended.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert D. Carlson of the Uranium Recovery Branch, Mail Stop TWFN 7-J9, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Telephone (301) 415-8165; e-mail RDC@NRC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 25, 1998, HRI submitted an application to NRC proposing to construct and operate an ISL uranium mining facility in McKinley County, near Church Rock, New Mexico. HRI later amended its application to include additional ISL operations in McKinley County, near an area of land referred to as Unit 1, and Crownpoint, NM. Together, the three sites comprise HRI's Crownpoint Uranium Solution Mining Project.

The NRC staff's environmental review of the Crownpoint Project is documented in the FEIS, pursuant to CFR Part 51. The NRC staff concluded that HRI's proposed Crownpoint Project was environmentally acceptable, and that potential impacts of the proposed project could be mitigated. These mitigative measures will be enumerated as conditions in HRI's source materials license. Additionally, the NRC staff completed its safety evaluation of the Crownpoint Project and documented its review in the SER. Based on its review, the NRC staff concluded that issuance of a source material license, with certain conditions specified in the license, would not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the public's health and safety, and otherwise meets the requirements of 10 CFR parts 19, 20, 40, and 71, and the AEA. The NRC staff's conclusions in the FEIS and SER

provide the bases for NRC's decision to tissue a source material license to HRI 30 days from issuance of the SER.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of December 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph J. Holonich,

Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

Notice of Meeting

Board Meeting: January 20 (beginning at 1 p.m.) & 21, 1998—Amargosa Valley, Nevada: Department of Energy (DOE) program update, public input to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the DOE thermal testing program, saturated zone hydrology, and the saturated zone expert elicitation project.

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100-203, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold its winter meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 20-21, 1998, in Amargosa Valley, Nevada. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Longstreet Inn and Casino, HCR 70, Box 559, Amargosa Valley, Nevada 89020; Tel (702) 372-1777; Fax (702) 372-1280.

The meeting will include an update on the DOE's nuclear waste management program and activities at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and sessions on the DOE's thermal testing program, saturated zone flow and transport modeling, and the saturated zone expert elicitation project. A session also will be held concerning the board's activities under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). A detailed agenda will be available approximately two weeks prior to the meeting by fax or e-mail, or at the Board's website, www.nwtrb.gov.

In 1993, the Congress passed the Government Performance and Results Act, intending to improve confidence in government by holding agencies accountable for activities that affect taxpayers lives. The law requires every federal agency to develop a strategic plan, including the critical component of a statement addressing how the agency plans to conduct itself while carrying out its mission. During the GPRA session at the winter meeting in Amargosa Valley, Nevada, the Board would like to solicit comments from the

public concerning the Board's value statement, which follows.

The Board takes very seriously its role as a major source of technical and scientific peer review of the nation's program to package, transport, and dispose of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. To that end, the Board will:

- Ensure Board practices and procedures are conducted with integrity and objectivity that are beyond reproach.

- Produce timely, complete, comprehensive, and thoughtful scientific and technical analyses.

- Communicate the Board's findings and recommendations at least twice a year clearly, and in a timely manner that is most beneficial to the Congress, the Department of Energy, and the public.

- Ensure the Board's findings and recommendations are based on current and accurate information.

- Ensure the Board conducts itself in an open and accessible manner.

The Board will ask those present to answer three questions:

1. Does the Board conduct its meetings in an open, objective, and fair manner? For example, are members of the public treated with respect and consideration when participating in the meetings?

2. Given the technical and often detailed nature of the Board's work, does the Board explain its major points and positions in reports and letters so that they are understandable? For example, is there a general understanding of the reasons for the Board's recommendation to construct an east-west crossing of the potential repository block at Yucca Mountain?

3. Most important, to what extent is the Board a credible source of scientific and technical advice to the Department of Energy and the Congress? In general, what is the basis for your opinion?

In responding to these questions, those present will be asked to keep in mind that the scope of the Board's work is defined specifically in federal law. That law, P.L. 100-203, December 22, 1987, mandates that the Board is to evaluate the scientific and technical work of the Department of Energy in its commercial nuclear waste disposal program, including waste packaging and transportation activities.

Time has been set aside for oral comments from the public on these issues. Depending on the number of speakers, time limits may have to be imposed. Preprinted comment sheets will be available at the meeting for use in submitting written comments.

Also, additional time has been set aside on both days for the public to

comment on the technical issues raised during the meeting. Those wishing to speak are encouraged to sign the Public Comment Register at the check-in table. A time limit may have to be set on the length of individual remarks; however, written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

Transcripts of this meeting will be available via e-mail, on computer disk, or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning February 18, 1998. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367; (Tel) 703-235-4473; (Fax) 703-235-4495; (E-mail) info@nwtb.gov.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the DOE in its program to manage the disposal of the nation's commercial spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. In the same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for its suitability as a potential location for a permanent repository for the disposal of that waste.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

William Barnard,

Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

[FR Doc. 97-33569 Filed 12-23-97; 8:45 am]

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Proposed Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Notice of Termination for Multiemployer Plans

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of intention to request extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of a collection of information in its regulation on Notice of Termination for Multiemployer Plans (29 CFR Part 4041A Subpart B) (OMB control number 1212-0020; expires March 31, 1998). This notice informs the public of the PBGC's intent and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by February 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Office of the General Counsel, suite 340, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, or delivered to that address between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days. Written comments will be available for public inspection at the PBGC's Communications and Public Affairs Department, suite 240 at the same address, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah C. Murphy, Attorney, office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, 202-326-4024. (For TTY and TDD, call 800-877-8339 and request connection to 202-326-4024).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 401A(f)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") gives the PBGC authority to prescribe reporting requirements for terminated multiemployer pension plans covered by Title IV of ERISA.

The PBGC's regulation on Notice of Termination for Multiemployer Plans (29 CFR Part 4041A Subpart B) requires the filing of a notice of termination with the PBGC by a multiemployer plan that has terminated either by plan amendment or by mass withdrawal. The notice must contain certain basic information such as the plan's identity, the date of termination, and the plan's most recent Form 5500. In addition, a plan that has terminated by mass withdrawal must supply certain financial information to enable the PBGC to assess the likelihood of benefit reductions or suspensions under the plan and the need for PBGC financial assistance to the plan. More information is required with respect to mass withdrawal terminations because the risk of plan insolvency is greater in these cases. (The regulation may be accessed on the PBGC's home page at <http://www.pbgc.gov>.)

The collection of information under the regulation has been approved by OMB under control number 1212-0020 through March 31, 1998. The PBGC intends to request that OMB extend its approval for another 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. The PBGC estimates that the total annual hour burden of the regulation is one hour and that the total annual cost burden is \$34,125.

The PBGC is soliciting public comments to—

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 18th day of December, 1997.

David M. Strauss,

Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Proposed Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Extension of Special Withdrawal Liability Rules

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of intention to request extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") intends to request that the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of a collection of information in its regulation on Extension of Special Withdrawal Liability Rules (29 CFR Part 4203) (OMB control number 1212-0023; expires March 31, 1998). This notice informs the public of the PBGC's intent and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments should be submitted by February 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Office of the General Counsel, suite 340, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, or delivered to that address between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days. Written