

Register on November 5, 1996. Where these changes represent a change to the current licensing basis for SSES, Units 1 and 2, they have been justified on a case-by-case and will be described in the staff's safety evaluation to be issued with the license amendment.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed TS conversion would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents.

Changes that are administrative in nature would have no effect on the technical content of the TSs and are acceptable. The increased clarity and understanding these changes bring to the TSs are expected to improve the operator's control of the plant in normal and accident conditions.

Relocation of requirements to licensee-controlled documents would not change the requirements themselves. Future changes to these requirements may be made by the licensee under 10 CFR 50.59 or other NRC-approved control mechanisms, which ensures continued maintenance of adequate requirements. All such relocations have been found to be in conformance with the guidelines of NUREG-1433 and the Final Policy Statement, and, therefore, are acceptable.

Changes involving more restrictive requirements would be likely to enhance the safety of plant operations and are acceptable.

Changes involving less restrictive requirements have been reviewed individually. When requirements have been shown to provide little or no safety benefit or to place unnecessary burdens on plant operations, those requirements have been relaxed in an overall effort to enhance safety. The changes 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 there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to this action would be to deny the request for the amendment. Such action would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operations.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of the SSES, Units 1 and 2, dated June 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 19, 1998, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. M. Mangi of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau, Division of Nuclear Safety, 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 August 1, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated November 26, 1997, January 6, March 2, April 24, and June 18, 1998, which are 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 Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of July 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Robert A. Capra,

Director, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-19364 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Potential for Degradation of the Emergency Core Cooling System and the Containment Spray System After a Loss-of-Coolant Accident Because of Construction and Protective Coating Deficiencies and Foreign Material in Containment; Issue

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Issuance.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-04 to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel, to alert licensees to the fact that foreign material continues to be found inside operating nuclear power plant containments. During a design basis loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), this foreign material could block the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) or safety-related containment spray system (CSS) flow paths or damage ECCS or safety-related CSS equipment. In addition, construction deficiencies and problems with the material condition of ECCS structures, systems, and components (SSCs) inside the containment continue to be found. Design deficiencies also have been found which could potentially degrade the ECCS or safety-related CSS. No actions or information are requested regarding these issues. The NRC has issued many previous generic communications on this subject and expects licensees to have considered possible actions at their facilities to address these concerns.

The NRC is also issuing this generic letter to alert licensees to the problems associated with the material condition of protective coatings inside the containment and to request information under 10 CFR 50.54(f) for the purpose of evaluating their programs for ensuring that protective coatings do not detach from their substrate during a design basis LOCA and interfere with the operation of the ECCS and the safety-related CSS. The NRC intends to use this information to assess whether current regulatory requirements are being correctly implemented and whether they should be revised.

The NRC expects addressees to ensure that the ECCS and the safety-related CSS remain capable of performing their intended safety functions. The NRC will conduct inspections to ensure

compliance with existing licensing bases and respond to discovered inadequacies with aggressive enforcement consistent with its enforcement policy.

The generic letter is available in the NRC Public Document Room under accession number 9807010291.

DATES: The generic letter was issued on July 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Not applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James A. Davis, at (301) 415-2713.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This generic letter does not constitute a backfit as defined in 10 CFR 50.109(a)(1) since it does not impose modifications of or additions to structures, systems or components or to design or operation of an addressee's facility. It also does not impose an interpretation of the Commission's rules that is either new or different from a previous staff position. The staff, therefore, has not performed a backfit analysis.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of July 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jack W. Roe,

Acting Director, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-19363 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review

AGENCY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) 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:* Pay Rate Report.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* UI-1e.
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0097.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 9/30/1998.
- (5) *Type of request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* Individuals or households.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 750.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 750.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 63.
- (10) *Collection description:* Under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. The daily benefit rate for unemployment and sickness benefits depends on the employee's last daily rate of pay. The

report obtains information from the employee and verification from the employer of the claimed rate of pay for use in determining whether an increase in the daily benefit rate is due.

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. 98-19381 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

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 (RRB) 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:* Report of Medicaid State Office Buy-In Status.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* RL-380-F.
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0185.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 9/30/1998.
- (5) *Type of request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* State Government.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 600.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 600.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 100.
- (10) *Collection description:* Under the Railroad Retirement Act, the Railroad Retirement Board administers the Medicare program for persons covered by the railroad retirement system. The collection obtains the information needed to determine if certain railroad beneficiaries are entitled to receive Supplemental Medical Insurance program coverage under a state buy-in agreement in states in which they reside.

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, DC 20503.

Chuck Mierzwa,

Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-19382 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Applications for Exemptions

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: List of applicants for exemptions.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, exemptions from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 107, Subpart B), notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the applications described herein. Each mode of transportation for which a particular exemption is requested is indicated by a number in the "Nature of Application" portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor vehicle, 2—Rail freight, 3—Cargo vessel, 4—Cargo aircraft only, 5—Passenger carrying aircraft.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 20, 1998.

ADDRESS COMMENTS TO: Records Center, Research and Special Programs, Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the exemption application number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of the applications (See Docket Number) are available for inspection at the New Docket Management Facility, PL-401, at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

This notice of receipt of applications for new exemptions is published in accordance with Part 107 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1806; 49 CFR 1.53(e)).