

radiological impact on the environment would be the release of radioactive material during excavation and handling of contaminated materials. No waste water that is contaminated with radionuclides above the 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B limits, will be allowed to be discharged to sewers and drains from the site.

The proposed activities that would be licensed at this site are for the purpose of controlling and characterizing the radiologically contaminated material. Because MDNR has committed to comply with NRC requirements, has adequate radiation protection procedures and capabilities, and will implement an acceptable as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA) program, the proposed actions are not anticipated to result in a dose to workers or the public in excess of 10 CFR Part 20 limits. Past experiences with site characterization activities at sites similar to the MDNR Tobico Marsh site indicate that public and worker exposure will be far below the limits found in 10 CFR Part 20.

The proposed action will result in the irreversible use of energy resources during excavation and handling of contaminated material. There are no reasonable alternatives to these resource uses and there are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

Agencies and Individuals Consulted

This environmental assessment (EA) was prepared entirely by NRC staff. The staff from the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and MDNR reviewed a draft of this EA. MDEQ had no comments. MDNR has suggested editorial corrections and noted that the presence of U-238 has not been unequivocally proven at the Tobico Marsh site in the Need for Proposed Action section. Their comments have been incorporated in this version. No other sources were used beyond those referenced in this EA.

Conclusions

Issuance of Source Material License No. SUC-1581 to authorize the possession and control of source material located on the MDNR Tobico Marsh site will have an insignificant impact on the environment. Proposed activities at the site are designed to improve control and reduce the potential for release of radiological contamination to the environment. In addition, based on information to be gathered at the site, the licensee will develop a plan for the cleanup of radiological contamination at the site.

Finding of No Significant Impact

NRC has prepared this EA related to the proposed license application by MDNR for the Tobico Marsh site. On the basis of the EA, NRC has concluded that this licensing action would not significantly affect the quality of the environment and has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

Opportunity for a Hearing

NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudication in Materials Licensing Proceedings," of NRC's rules and practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2. Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(d). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of the publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

1. By delivery to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738, between 7:45 am and 4:15 pm, Federal workdays; or

2. By mail or telegram addressed to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requester in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requester should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(h);
3. The requester's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and
4. The circumstance establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(d).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.1205(f), each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909, Attention: Ms. Kelli Sobel; and

2. The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738, between 7:45 am and 4:15 pm, Federal workdays, or by mail, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

For further details with respect to this action, copies of the license application dated September 5, 1997, the complete EA, and supporting documentation are available for inspection at NRC's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street N.W., Washington, DC 20555-0001.

For Further Information Contact: Ms. Sherry W. Lewis, General Engineer, Facilities Decommissioning Section, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards. Telephone: (301) 415-6619.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of August 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

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

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NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

Board Meeting: September 14-15, 1999—Arlington, Virginia: Review of the Department of Energy's Safety Strategy for a Potential Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, and of Scientific Studies Undertaken at the Yucca Mountain Site

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100-203, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14 and 15, in Alexandria, Virginia, to review the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) waste isolation and containment strategy for a potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The meeting will be open to the public.

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1501. The telephone number is 703-683-6000. The Board meeting sessions will begin at 9 a.m. on both days.

On the morning of September 14, the DOE will update the Board on events that have taken place recently within the civilian radioactive waste

management program and the Yucca Mountain project. Presentations will be on important issues related to the performance of a potential repository including the effects of waste heat on repository behavior, the significance of chlorine-36 isotopes found in exploratory tunnels, the characteristics and processes of the saturated zone that will affect radionuclide releases, and results from corrosion tests of waste package materials. An update on repository design also will be presented.

In the afternoon, the DOE will make a series of presentations on the latest version of its repository safety strategy. Included will be an analysis of the "defense in depth" envisioned for the repository system and identification of key research priorities that the project will address over the next 18 months.

The morning session on September 15 will focus on the DOE's work to revise its total system performance assessment (TSPA) and on its use of multiple lines of evidence to develop a strategy for demonstrating the safety of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository. Included among the presentations will be a discussion of the treatment of uncertainty in TSPA, especially the use of bounding analyses. The use of natural analogs, or naturally occurring phenomenon that could increase understanding of conditions at Yucca Mountain, also will be discussed. The afternoon session will be devoted to presentations on model validation by the DOE and a subsequent roundtable discussion on this issue.

The meeting will be open to the public on both days. Time for public comment will be set aside at approximately 11:30 a.m. on both days and at the end of the afternoon session (approximately 4:30 p.m.) on September 14. Those wanting to speak are encouraged to sign the "Public Comment Register" at the check-in table. Depending on the number of requests, a time limit may be imposed on oral statements, but written comments of any length may be submitted for inclusion in the record of the meeting. Interested parties also may submit questions in writing to the Board. As time permits, written questions will be answered during the sessions.

A detailed agenda will be available approximately one week before the meeting. Copies of the agenda can be requested by telephone or obtained from the Board's Web site at www.nwtrb.gov. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on the Board's Web site, via e-mail, on computer disk, and on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning

on October 18, 1999. For further information, contact Karyn Severson, Director of External Affairs, NWTRB, at 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367; (tel) 703-235-4473; (fax) 703-235-4495; (e-mail) info@nwtrb.gov.

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

Dated: August 10, 1999.

William D. Barnard,

Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

[FR Doc. 99-21088 Filed 8-13-99; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Existing Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

Rule 18f-1, Form N-18F-1, SEC File No. 270-187; OMB Control No. 3235-0211

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension and approval.

Rule 18f-1 [17 CFR 270.18f-1] enables a registered open-end management investment company ("fund") that may redeem its securities in kind, by making a one-time election, to commit to make cash redemptions pursuant to certain requirements without violating section 18(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940. A fund relying on the rule must file Form N-18F-1 [17 CFR 274.51] to notify the Commission of this election. The Commission staff estimates that

approximately 106 funds file the Form annually, and that each response takes approximately one hour. Based on these estimates, the total annual burden hours associated with the rule is estimated to be 106 hours.

The estimate of average burden hours is made solely for the purposes of the Paperwork Reduction Act, and is not derived from a comprehensive or even a representative survey or study of the costs of Commission rules. 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.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Please direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: August 10, 1999.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Upon Written Request; Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

Form F-6, SEC File No. 270-270, OMB Control No. 3235-0229 Regulation S-T, SEC File No. 270-375, OMB Control No. 3235-0424

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission