

submitted a related topical report, CE NPSD-1157, which also provided justification for elimination of PASS. Both of these topical reports indicated that the cost of maintaining the PASS was high and justified elimination of PASS based upon there being no benefit in the information obtained via PASS. The topical reports conclude that the sampling systems are not useful in supporting post accident mitigative and emergency response actions and that most of the information, which would be obtained from sampling, can be inferred from other indications which will be available earlier in an event than the sample results. In addition, the topical reports state that the samples are subject to inaccuracies due to physical phenomena (e.g., deposition of fission products in sample lines) involved in taking the samples.

II. Description of Proposed Action

The NRC is proposing to endorse the industry topical reports for referencing in site-specific licensing actions to remove commitments for maintaining PASS. This action, if taken, would allow nuclear power plants to remove their commitments for maintaining PASS.

III. Justification for Proposed Action

The NRC concludes from its review of the topical reports that the information to be obtained from PASS can be inferred to a large degree from other indications which will be available earlier in an event than the PASS samples due to the time needed to obtain and analyze the PASS sample. In addition, the PASS samples are difficult to obtain and are subject to inaccuracies due to physical phenomena (e.g., deposition of fission products in sample lines) involved in taking the samples. However, PASS can provide a measurement of radionuclides in reactor coolant system, containment sump and containment atmosphere which may be used in supporting emergency response decision making. This information may be used to modify the assumed source term used in offsite dose calculations which are considered in formulating Protective Action Recommendations (PARs) during an accident. This information is not needed to formulate initial PARs (which are most likely based on plant conditions, e.g., reactor water level, core temperatures, and containment radiation levels). Furthermore, other information, such as area, process, and effluent radiation monitor readings and field team data, can be used to support modification to the initial PAR. The PASS information would potentially be most useful in situations where an accident results in

release of radioactive material to the reactor coolant or containment, but a breach of either of these systems/volumes does not occur within the first several hours of the accident or occurs through an unmonitored release path. However, even in these situations, PASS sample measurement information would not be a real-time indication of the concentration of radionuclides within the sampled volume (due to the time needed to analyze the samples) and would be subject to the inaccuracies discussed above.

IV. Request for Comment

Before completing its review of the industry topical reports, the NRC is seeking public comment from its stockholders. In particular, the NRC is seeking comment from offsite emergency response organizations who may have an interest in information regarding radionuclide concentrations in the reactor coolant, containment sump or containment atmosphere to support their emergency response activities (in particular protective action decision making). Specifically, the NRC is seeking comment on whether elimination of information obtained from radionuclide sampling using the PASS may have an adverse effect on offsite emergency response organizations' ability to respond to an accident in view of (1) the availability of information provided by plant conditions, plant radiation monitor readings and field monitoring teams and (2) the limitations associated with the accuracy and timeliness of information provided by the PASS.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18 day of November, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frank P. Gillespie,

*Deputy Director, Division of Inspection
Program Management, Office of Nuclear
Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc 99-30645 Filed 11-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Licenses Authorizing Distribution to General Licensees

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of Availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The NRC is announcing the availability of, and requesting comments on, draft NUREG-1556, Volume 16,

"Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance about Licenses Authorizing Distribution to General Licensees," dated September 1999. This draft NUREG report is the 16th program-specific guidance document developed to support an improved material licensing process. The NRC is using Business Process Redesign techniques to redesign its material licensing process, as described in NUREG-1539, "Methodology and Findings of the NRC's Materials Licensing Process Redesign." A critical element of the new process is consolidating and updating numerous guidance documents into a NUREG-series of reports.

This draft guide has been developed in parallel with the proposed rulemaking on 10 CFR Parts 30, 31, 32, 170, and 171, "Requirements for Certain Generally Licensed Industrial Devices Containing Byproduct Material." The proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on July 26, 1999 (64 FR 40295). Comments received in response to publication of this draft guidance will be considered in developing the final guide. Finalization of the guidance will continue to parallel the rulemaking, resulting in a guidance document that is consistent with the final rule. It is intended for use by applicants, licensees, NRC license reviewers, and other NRC personnel.

NRC is requesting comments such as whether a risk-informed, performance-based approach to licensing is valid, as well as comments on the information provided. Note that this document is strictly for public comment and is not for use in preparing or reviewing applications, until it is published in final form.

DATES: The comment period ends January 24, 2000. Comments received after that time will be considered if practicable.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hand-deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Federal workdays. Comments may also be submitted through the Internet by addressing electronic mail to dlm1@nrc.gov.

Those considering public comment may request a free single copy of draft NUREG-1556, Volume 16, by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Mrs. Sally L. Merchant, Mail Stop TWFN 9-F-31, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Alternatively, submit requests through the Internet by addressing electronic mail to slm2@nrc.gov. A copy of draft NUREG-1556, Volume 16, is also available for inspection and/or copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555-0001.

The Presidential Memorandum dated June 1, 1998, entitled, "Plain Language in Government Writing," directed that the Federal Government's writing be in plain language. The NRC specifically requests comments on this licensing guidance NUREG about the clarity and effectiveness of the language used. Comments should be sent to the address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mrs. Sally L. Merchant, Mail Stop TWFN 9-F-31, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-7874; electronic mail address: slm2@nrc.gov.

Electronic Access

Draft NUREG-1556, Vol. 16 is available electronically by visiting NRC's Home Page (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/nucmat.html>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of November 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Catherine Haney,

Acting Chief, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS.

[FR Doc. 99-30644 Filed 11-23-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

POSTAL SERVICE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIMES AND DATES: 1:00 p.m., Monday, December 6, 1999; 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 7, 1999.

PLACE: Washington, D.C., at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, in the Benjamin Franklin Room.

STATUS: December 6 (Closed); December 7 (Open).

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Monday, December 6—1:00 p.m. (Closed)

1. Rate Case Filing.
2. Audit Committee Report and Review of Year-End Financial Statements.
3. Personnel Matters.
4. Compensation Issues.

Tuesday, December 7—8:30 a.m. (Open)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, November 1-2, 1999.
2. Remarks of the Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer.
3. Consideration of Fiscal Year 1999 Audited Financial Statements.
4. Consideration of Fiscal Year 1999 Annual Report.
5. Diversity Report.
6. Capital Investment.
 - a. St. Paul, Minnesota—Twin Cities Airport Mail Center.
7. Tentative Agenda for the January 10-11, 2000, meeting in Washington, D.C.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Thomas J. Koerber, Secretary of the Board, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-1000. Telephone (202) 268-4800.

Thomas J. Koerber,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-30771 Filed 11-22-99; 2:53 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

Extension:

Form F-9, SEC File No. 270-333, OMB Control No. 3235-0377

Form F-10, SEC File No. 270-334, OMB Control No. 3235-0380

Form 10, SEC File No. 270-51, OMB Control No. 3235-0064

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 ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for approval of extension on the following:

Form F-9 is a registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933 (Securities Act) used by certain investment grade debt or investment grade preferred securities that are offered for cash or in connection with an exchange offer and either non convertible or not convertible for a period of at least one year from the date

of issuance and, except as noted in paragraph (e), are thereafter only convertible into security of another class of the issuer.

The information required by Form F-9 is useful for persons considering investment in securities issued by Canadian companies. Form F-9 takes approximately 25 hours to prepare and is filed by 12 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of the 300 hours (75 hours) would be prepared by the company.

Form F-10 is a Registration Statement used by Canadian "substantial issuers," those issuers with at least thirty-six calendar months of reporting history with a securities commission in Canada and a market value of common stock of at least \$360 million (Canadian) and an aggregate market value of common stock held by non-affiliates of at least \$75 million (Canadian).

The information required under the cover of Form F-10 can be used by security holders and investors in evaluating securities and making investment decisions. Form F-10 takes approximately 25 hours to prepare and is filed by 45 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of the 1,125 hours (281) would be prepared by the company.

Form 10 is used by the Commission to register securities pursuant to Sections 12(b) and 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act). Form 10 requires financial and other information about such matters as the registrant's business, properties, identify and remuneration of management, outstanding securities and securities to be registered and financial condition.

The information provided by Form 10 is intend to ensure the adequacy of information available to investors about the company. Form 10 takes approximately 24 hours to prepare and is filed by 124 respondents. It is estimated that 25% of the 2,977 hours (744 hours) would be prepared by the company.

Written comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of 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