

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Experts' Meeting on High-Burnup Fuel Behavior Under Postulated Accident Conditions

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting to further develop a Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) for a BWR accident. PIRTs have been used at NRC since 1988, and they provide a structured way to obtain a technical understanding that is needed to address certain issues. About twenty of the world's best technical experts are participating in this activity, and the experts represent a balance between industry, universities, foreign researchers, and regulatory organizations. The current PIRT activity is addressing a postulated BWR accident wherein power oscillations occur, the reactor fails to scram, and the oscillations then reach sufficient magnitude that fuel failure may occur before the emergency operating procedures are able to terminate the oscillations and shut the reactor down.

DATES: April 4-7, 2000, 8:30 am-5:30 pm.

ADDRESSES: Room T10A1 (TWFN) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Ralph Meyer, SMSAB, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6789.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting agenda will be posted on the NRC Web site at www.nrc.gov/RES/meetings.html by March 20, 2000. The meeting is open to the public. Attendees will need to obtain a visitor badge at the TWFN building lobby.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Charles E. Rossi,

Director, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

(NUREG-1555 and NUREG-1555, Supplement 1)

Updated Environmental Standard Review Plan: Availability

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has prepared an update to the Environmental Standard Review Plan for the review of environmental reports for nuclear power plants (ESRP). The draft version of this update of the ESRP was published in 1997. The updated ESRP is contained in two documents, NUREG-1555, "Environmental Standard Review Plan—Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants" and its companion document for operating license renewal environmental reviews, NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, "Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants—Supplement 1: Operating License Renewal." These documents replace the ESRP (NUREG-0555) originally issued in 1978.

ADDRESSES: The updated ESRP in printed paper, 3.5-inch disks and compact disks (CD) versions are available for inspection and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555-0001, and can be found electronically at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/indexnum.html> on the NRC Web site. Additionally, publically available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Luehman, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Mail Stop O-11F1, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-3150, or email JGL@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a Notice of Availability published in the **Federal Register** on October 3, 1997 (62 FR 51915), the NRC made available

NUREG-1555, "Environmental Standard Review Plan—Standard Review Plan for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants (Draft Report for Comment)." As stated in that Notice of Availability, the comment period for the draft report expired January 30, 1998. The NRC received seven letters providing comments on the draft report. Three letters were received from nuclear industry groups, two letters were received from nuclear power reactor licensees, one letter was submitted by a law firm, another by a federal agency, and one by an individual. All of the comments received were considered and dispositioned. One comment received concluded that the requirements for operating license renewal review requirements were difficult to extract from the draft document which contained review requirements for new applications as well as review requirements for operating license renewals. In response to that comment, the final ESRP was divided and now consists of NUREG-1555 and NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, which is specifically devoted to operating license renewal issues.

In addition to updating the draft ESRP to reflect the comments received, the NRC has done some additional updating to reflect recent rulemaking affecting the environmental reviews required for operating license renewal. On September 3, 1999 (64 FR 48495), the NRC published a final rule expanding the generic findings about the environmental impacts due to transportation of spent fuel and nuclear waste to and from a single nuclear power plant. That amendment to Part 51 changed the transportation of spent fuel and nuclear waste from a Category 2 issue (an issue for which the licensee would have to perform a plant-specific analysis of the impacts) to a Category 1 issue (an issue for which the licensee could adopt a generic analysis performed by the NRC staff). The appropriate ESRP sections have been changed to reflect the rule change.

The updated ESRP is not a generic communication that proposes new NRC staff positions or seeks additional licensee commitments. It does not impose new or revised requirements but simply compiles and documents NRC and other Federal requirements, and NRC staff positions. The ESRP does not explicitly incorporate State, regional or Native American tribal agency requirements that may also need to be addressed by applicants or licensees.

Work activities related to updating the ESRP were performed substantially in conformance with the guidance in NUREG-1447, "Standard Review Plan

Update and Development Program—Implementing Procedures Document,” dated May 1992. NUREG-1447 documents the results of developing the major work assumptions and work processes for completing the standard review plan revision process. Information protocols and process modifications were made to account for changes that resulted requirements outside the Atomic Energy Act and NRC regulations including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Presidential executive order on environmental justice, guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality, and regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency on non-radiological issues. The entire work effort and responsibility for updating the ESRP resides in the NRC Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial, and Rulemaking Branch, which coordinates with the appropriate technical review branches and essential technical specialists on particular issues.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of March, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David B. Matthews,

Director, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs.

[FR Doc. 00-6195 Filed 3-13-00; 8:45 am]

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SECURITY AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Extension: Rule 17a-6; SEC File No. 270-433; OMB Control No. 3235-0489]

Request Under Review by Office of Management and Budget

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

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”) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

Rule 17a-6 (17 CFR 240.17a-6) permits national securities exchanges, national securities associations, registered clearing agencies, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (collectively, “SROs”) to destroy or convert to microfilm or other recording media records maintained under Rule 17a-1 (17 CFR 240.17a-1), if they have

filed with the Commission a plan to destroy or dispose of records and the Commission has declared such plan effective.

There are currently 23 SROs required under Rule 17a-1 to maintain certain records and that could receive relief under Rule 17a-6: 8 national securities exchanges, 1 national securities association, 13 registered clearing agencies, and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. Assuming that one of these respondents might file a plan to destroy or dispose of records, or an amendment thereto, in a given year, such filing would require approximately 40 hours per respondent to complete. Thus, the total compliance burden is 40 hours. At an approximate cost per hour of \$100, the resulting total related cost of compliance for these respondents is \$4,000 per year (40 hours x \$100/hour=\$4,000).

Compliance with Rule 17a-6 is required only in order to obtain the relief it offers from records retention requirements. If an eligible SRO plan to destroy or dispose of records will employ conversion onto microfilm or other recording medium, the SRO shall (1) be ready at all times to provide, and immediately provide, easily readable projection of the microfilm or other recording medium and easily readable hardcopy thereof, (2) provide indexes permitting the immediate location of and such document on the microfilm or other recording medium, and (3) in the case of microfilm, store a duplicate copy of the microfilm separately from the original microfilm for the time required (17 CFR 240.17a-6(b)). Information collected under Rule 17a-6 shall not be kept confidential.

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 control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (a) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; and (b) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: March 7, 2000.

Jonathan G. Katz,
Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-42500; File No. SR-CBOE-99-44]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change and Amendment No. 1 Thereto by the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. To Revised the Limits on New Series of Index Options

March 7, 2000.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) ¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on August 18, 1999, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. (“CBOE” or “Exchange”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. On November 22, 1999, the CBOE submitted to the Commission amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change.³ The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The CBOE seeks to revise Interpretations .01 and .05 of Exchange Rule 24.9, “Terms of Index Option Contracts” to revise the limits on new series of index options. Under the proposal, the requirement that new series of index options must be “reasonably related to the current index value of the underlying index” would be interpreted to permit the Exchange to introduce new series of index options if their strike prices are within 30% of the current index value. In addition, the proposal would permit the CBOE to introduce new series of index options

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ Amendment No. 1 revised the proposal to include OEX index options as well as non-OEX index options. Amendment No. 1 also proposes to permit the Exchange to introduce new series of index options whose strike prices are more than 30% away from the current index value, provided that demonstrated customer interest exists. See Letter from Christopher R. Hill, attorney, CBOE, to Nancy Sanow, Senior Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation (“Division”), Commission, dated November 16, 1999 (“Amendment No. 1”).