written comments regarding the license transfer application, as provided for in 10 CFR 2.1305. The Commission will consider and, if appropriate, respond to these comments, but such comments will not otherwise constitute part of the decisional record. Comments should be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated February 28, 2000, available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (*http:www.nrc.gov*).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Timothy Colburn,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–8739 Filed 4–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes; Renewal Notice

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: This notice is to announce the renewal of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) for a period of two years.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has determined that the renewal of the charter for the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes for the two year period commencing on April 4, 2000, is in the public interest, in connection with duties imposed on the Commission by law. This action is being taken in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, after consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration.

The purpose of the ACMUI is to provide advice to NRC on policy and technical issues that arise in regulating the medical use of byproduct material for diagnosis and therapy. Responsibilities include providing guidance and comments on current and proposed NRC regulations and regulatory guidance concerning medical use; evaluating certain non-routine uses of byproduct material for medical use; and evaluating training and experience of proposed authorized users. The members are involved in preliminary discussions of major issues in determining the need for changes in NRC policy and regulation to ensure the continued safe use of byproduct material. Each member provides technical assistance in his/her specific area(s) of expertise, particularly with respect to emerging technologies. Members also provide guidance as to NRC's role in relation to the responsibilities of other Federal agencies as well as of various professional organizations and boards.

Members of this Committee have demonstrated professional qualifications and expertise in both scientific and non-scientific disciplines including nuclear medicine; nuclear cardiology; radiation therapy; medical physics; radiopharmacy; State medical regulation; patient's rights and care; health care administration; medical research; medical dosimetry, and Food and Drug Administration regulation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Ann Torres, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; Telephone (301) 415–0191.

Dated: April 4, 2000.

Andrew L. Bates,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–8738 Filed 4–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–U

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Proposed New Appendix to Standard Review Plan (NUREG–0800), Chapter 19, ''Use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Plant-Specific, Risk-Informed Decisionmaking: General Guidance''

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued for public comment a proposed new appendix to Chapter 19 of its Standard Review Plan (NUREG–0800). This chapter of the Standard Review Plan (SRP) identifies the roles and responsibilities of organizations in the NRC that participate in risk-informed reviews of licensees' proposals for changes to the licensing basis, identifies the types of information that may be used in fulfilling an organization's review responsibilities, and provides general guidance on how the information from a probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) can be combined with other pertinent information in the process of making a regulatory decision.

The proposed appendix is titled ''Appendix D—Use of Risk Information in Review of Non-Risk Informed License Amendment Requests.'' The appendix is being developed to provide guidance to the NRC staff on the use of risk information in those rare instances where license amendment requests appear to meet regulatory requirements but raise significant risk concerns due to some special circumstances associated with the request. The appendix is based on the guidance contained in SECY–99–246, and approved by the Commission for interim use (Staff Requirements Memorandum dated January 5, 2000.)

DATES: The comment period expires May 31, 2000. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date. The NRC is also planning to hold a public meeting in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the proposed appendix before the close of the comment period. The time and location of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC. You may also provide comments via the NRC's website at http://www.nrc.gov by using the e-mail link entitled ''NRCREP.''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Palla, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Mail Stop O10H4, Washington, DC, 20555–0001; telephone (301) 415–1095; e-mail: rlp3@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The guidance in the new appendix will be used by the NRC staff in its reviews of license amendment requests. The appendix is based on proposed guidance documented in SECY–99–246, ''Proposed Guidelines for Applying Risk-Informed Decisionmaking in License Amendment Reviews.'' The Commission approved the use of this

guidance on an interim basis, and directed the staff to finalize the guidance and modify relevant guidance documents ensuring that stakeholders are engaged in this process (Staff Requirements Memorandum dated January 5, 2000.) The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the proposed new appendix, and the opportunity to comment on the guidance. A final version will be issued upon resolution of public comments and review by the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the NRC's Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS), and the Commission. In a planned future revision to Regulatory Guide 1.174, ''An Approach for Using Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Risk-Informed Decisions on Plant-Specific Changes to the Licensing Basis,'' the NRC plans to incorporate compatible guidance that conforms to the new SRP Appendix D.

The proposed new appendix to NUREG–0800, Chapter 19 follows:

Appendix D—Use of Risk Information in Review of Non-Risk-Informed License Amendment Requests

Areas of Review

When a license amendment request complies with the regulations and other license requirements, there is a presumption by the Commission of adequate protection of public health and safety (*Maine Yankee,* ALAB–161, 6 AEC 1003 (1973)). However, circumstances may arise in which new information reveals an unforeseen hazard or a substantially greater potential for a known hazard to occur, such as identification of an issue that substantially increases risk. In such situations, the NRC has the statutory authority to require licensee action above and beyond existing regulations to maintain the level of protection necessary to avoid undue risk to public health and safety. Section 182.a of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and as implemented by 10 CFR 2.102, gives the NRC the authority to require the submittal of information in connection with a license amendment request if NRC has reason to question adequate protection of public health and safety. The licensee may decline to submit such information, but it would risk having the amendment request denied if NRC cannot find that the requested amendment provides adequate protection of public health and safety.

Under unusual circumstances which could introduce significant and unanticipated risks, the NRC staff reviewers would assume the burden of demonstrating that the presumption of adequate protection is not supported by the bases for the existing staff positions despite the fact that currently specified regulatory requirements are met. Instances in which the reviewers would question licensees regarding risk are expected to be rare. The process used for identifying those situations in which risk implications are appropriate to consider and for deciding if undue risk exists is depicted in Figure 1. This process can be used in the review of both licensee-initiated risk-informed license amendment requests, as well as license amendment requests in which the licensee chooses to not submit risk information (*i.e.,* non-risk informed requests.)

License amendment requests will be screened for potential risk implications as part of the license amendment review process. Office-level license amendment review procedures provide guidance on which license amendment requests should be examined at the level of the integrated risk model due to the potential for significant impacts on plant risk [1]. In accordance with the guidance, the risk implications of a non-risk-informed submittal would be discussed with a risk analyst if the submittal:

- Significantly changes the allowed outage time (*e.g.,* outside the range previously approved at similar plants), probability of initiating event, probability of successful mitigative action, functional recovery time, or operator action requirement;
- Significantly changes functional requirements or redundancy;
- Significantly changes operations that affect the likelihood of undiscovered failures;
- Significantly affects the basis for successful safety function; or
- Could create ''special circumstances'' under which compliance with existing regulations may not produce the intended or expected level of safety, and plant operation may pose an undue risk to public health and safety.

Non-risk-informed license amendment requests judged to have the potential to significantly impact risk would be referred for a more detailed risk evaluation as part of the license amendment review.

Review Guidance and Procedures

For license amendment requests referred for a risk review, the reviewers should assess the requested changes, and the need for and effectiveness of any compensatory measures that might be warranted because of risk considerations, by evaluating the changes relative to the safety principles and integrated decisionmaking process defined in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.174. The risk acceptance guidelines (Sections 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 of RG 1.174) describe acceptable levels of risk increase as a function of total core damage frequency (CDF) and large early release frequency (LERF) and the manner in which the acceptance guidelines should be applied in the review and decisionmaking process. Reviewers should note that the guidelines serve as a point of reference for gauging risk impact but are not legally binding requirements.

For non-risk informed license amendment requests, the preliminary assessment would be qualitative with a decision based on engineering judgment since quantitative risk information would not generally be presented in submittals that are not risk informed. If ''special circumstances'' are believed to exist, the reviewers will explore in more detail the underlying engineering issues contributing to the risk concern, and the potential risk significance of the license amendment request.

''Special circumstances'' represent conditions or situations that would raise questions about whether there is adequate protection, and that could rebut the normal presumption of adequate protection from compliance with existing requirements. In such situations, undue risk may exist even when all regulatory requirements are satisfied. In general, these situations would not have been identified or specifically addressed in the development of the current set of regulations, and would be important enough to warrant the promulgation of a new regulation (*e.g.,* a risk-informed regulation) if such situations were encountered on a widespread basis. ''Special circumstances'' may include but not be limited to license amendment requests which, if approved, could:

- Substantially increase the likelihood or consequences of accidents that are risk-significant but beyond the design and licensing basis of the plant, for example: Proposed changes to steam generator (SG) allowable leak rates that meet Part 100 limits based on the design basis source term, but result in a large early release given a severe accident source term; or use of new materials for SG repairs that provide acceptable performance under normal and design basis accident conditions, but a reduced capability to maintain SG tube integrity in high temperature severe accident scenarios.
- Degrade multiple levels of defense, or cornerstones in the reactor oversight process, through plant operations or situations not explicitly considered in the development of the regulations, *e.g.,* advanced applications of digital instrumentation and controls without due consideration of defense-in-depth.
- Significantly reduce the availability/reliability of SSCs that are risk-significant but not required by regulations, *e.g.,* turbine driven AFW pumps provided in response to NUREG–0737, II.E.1.1, or hardened vents in Mark I containments that protect against containment over-pressure failures in accidents beyond the design basis.
- Involve changes for which the synergistic or cumulative effects could significantly impact risk, *e.g.,* large power uprate requests.

If upon further consideration it is believed that approval of the request would compromise the safety principles described in RG 1.174 and substantially increase risk relative to the risk acceptance guidelines contained in the RG, the reviewers should inform NRC management of the risk concerns, and the need to further evaluate the risk associated with the request. The general criteria that should be met are that: (1) The reviewer has knowledge that indicates that the risk impact associated with the requested change is not reflected by the licensing basis analysis, and (2) the reviewer has reason to believe that the magnitude of the risk increase may be sufficient to warrant denial of the request or to warrant attaching

[1] Following approval of the subject SRP changes, the staff will update the license amendment review procedures to include supplemental information on ''special circumstances'' and other conforming changes.

conditions to its approval of the request, if the request were evaluated in the context of the existing guidance for approval of risk-informed applications.

In such instances, the reviewers with management concurrence should ask the licensee to address the safety principles and the numerical guidelines for acceptable risk increases contained in RG 1.174 in their submittal. The reviewers may alternatively ask the licensee to submit the information needed for the NRC staff to make an independent risk assessment. If a licensee does not choose to address risk, the reviewers should not issue the requested amendment until they have assessed the risk implications sufficiently to determine that there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be adequately protected if the amendment request is approved. A licensee's decision not to submit requested information could impede the staff's review and could also prevent the reviewers from reaching a finding that there is reasonable assurance of adequate protection. A licensee's failure to submit requested information could also be a basis for rejection pursuant to 10 CFR 2.108.

Evaluation Findings

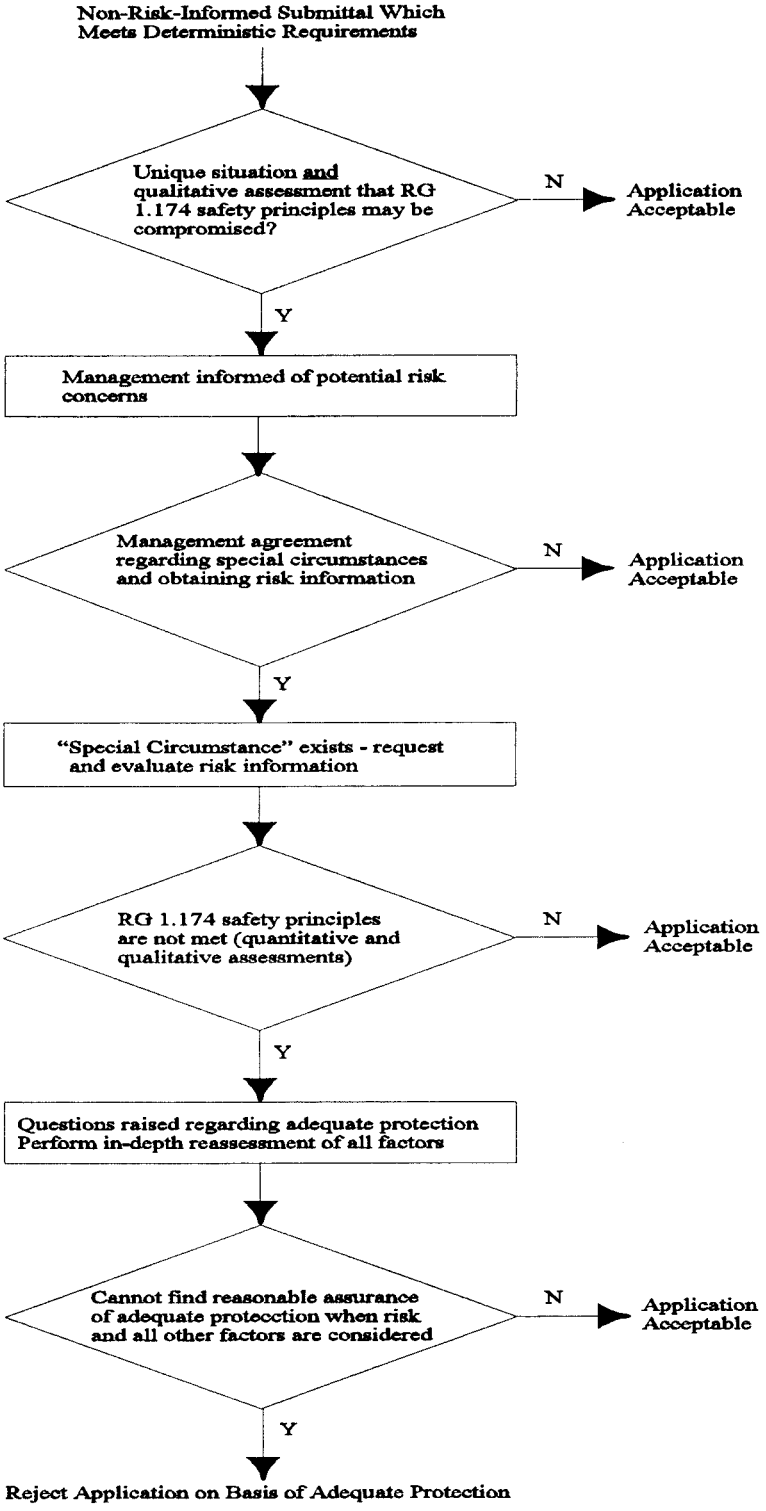
The numerical guidance for CDF and LERF provided in RG 1.174 is intended to provide a basis for finding that there is reasonable assurance of adequate protection. Therefore, situations that exceed these values or violate the other principles would constitute a trigger point at which questions are raised as to whether the proposed change provides reasonable assurance of adequate protection. A more in-depth assessment of the special circumstances, the safety principles, and the issues identified for management attention in Section 2.2.6 of RG 1.174 should then be made in order to reach a conclusion regarding the level of safety associated with the requested change.

In making this assessment, the reviewers should be mindful to clearly differentiate the concept of adequate protection from the numerical risk acceptance guidelines. The guidelines in themselves do not constitute a definition of adequate protection, but provide an appropriate set of criteria to be used in the process for evaluating adequate protection.

It is not the NRC's policy or within the NRC's technical capabilities to allow risk to increase to a point where protection is almost, but not quite, inadequate. As discussed in RG 1.174, the uncertainty in the analyses must be considered in any finding that adequate protection is achieved. The final acceptability of the proposed change should be based on a consideration of current regulatory requirements, as well as on adherence to the safety principles, and not solely on the basis of a comparison of quantitative PRA results with numerical acceptance guidelines. The authority provided by the Atomic Energy Act and current regulations requires rejection of a license amendment request if the NRC is unable to find that adequate protection is provided.

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

Figure 1 - Process and Logic for Considering Risk in License Amendment Reviews



Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of April 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Timothy E. Collins,

Deputy Director, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–8740 Filed 4–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–C

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Review of a Revised and Expired Information Collection: OPM Form 1593

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget a request for review of a revised and expired information collection. OPM Form 1593, Federal Employment Information Customer Survey, is used by the job seeking public to express their level of satisfaction with our employment information services. Participation is voluntary.

Approximately 245,000 surveys will be completed annually. We estimate it will take 1 minute to complete this form. The total annual burden is 4,083 hours.

Comments are particularly invited on:

—Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the Office of Personnel Management, and whether it will have practical utility;

—Whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; and

—Ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of the appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606–8358, or E-mail to mbtoomey@opm.gov.

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before June 9, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Richard A. Whitford, Director, Washington Service Center/Employment, Information Office, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 2455, Washington, DC 20415.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00–8839 Filed 4–7–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–U

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A and B, and placed under Schedule C in the excepted service, as required by Civil Service Rule VI, Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzy Barker, Staffing Reinvention Office, Employment Service (202) 606–0830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR 213 on March 23, 2000 (65 FR 15664). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A and B and established under Schedule C between February 1, 2000, and February 29, 2000 appear in the listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month, or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities as of June 30 will also be published.

Schedule A

No Schedule A authorities were established during February 2000.

The following Schedule A authority was revoked:

Corporation for National and Community Service

All positions on the Staff of the Corporation for National Community Service. No new appointment may be under this authority after September 30, 1995. Effective February 30, 2000.

Schedule B

No Schedule B authorities were established or revoked during February 2000.

Schedule C

The following Schedule C authorities were established during February 2000.

Broadcasting Board of Governors

Development Officer to the Director, International Broadcasting Bureau. Effective February 4, 2000.

Confidential Assistant to the Director, Voice of America. Effective February 22, 2000.

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Special Assistant (Legal) to the Commissioner. Effective February 17, 2000.

Department of Agriculture

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Rural Business Service. Effective February 8, 2000.

Staff Assistant to the Director, Legislative Liaison, Executive Secretariat and Public Affairs Staff. Effective February 9, 2000.

Senior Policy Director to the Deputy Under Secretary, Policy and Planning. Effective February 9, 2000.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Rural Housing Service. Effective February 17, 2000.

Confidential Assistant Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Effective February 29, 2000.

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. Effective February 29, 2000.

Department of Commerce

Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Export Administration. Effective February 7, 2000.

Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Affairs. Effective February 14, 2000.

Special Counsel to the General Counsel. Effective February 16, 2000.

Department of Defense

Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Industrial Affairs. Effective February 9, 2000.

Special Assistant for Counterterrorism/Crisis Management to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. Effective February 10, 2000.

Assistant for Terrorism Consequence Management Policy and Programs to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense. Effective February 10, 2000.

Department of Education

Confidential Assistant to the Director, White House Initiative on Hispanic Education. Effective February 29, 2000.

Confidential Assistant to the Senior Advisor to the Secretary. Effective February 29, 2000.