

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Department of Energy; Public Meeting on NRC Regulatory Oversight of DOE Facilities

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 1998, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to address issues related to the recently established pilot program for NRC's external regulation of certain DOE facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a joint public meeting to provide information on this pilot project on Tuesday, March 24, 1998, at 7:00 P.M. at the American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

In June 1997, DOE and NRC agreed to pursue NRC external regulation of certain DOE facilities on a pilot program basis. A pilot program of NRC simulated regulation has been established to collect information on the desirability of NRC oversight and on whether to seek legislation to authorize such oversight. The DOE and the NRC expect to evaluate six to ten DOE facilities over the next two years under the pilot program. The Radiochemical Engineering Development Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has been chosen as one of the pilot sites.

The major areas of discussion at this meeting will be:

- The overall pilot program and background information.
- The ORNL Work Plan.
- Major issues affecting NRC oversight (generic and site-specific).

One of the main purposes of the meeting is to describe the process through which stakeholders may participate in the pilot program. Stakeholders will be invited to ask questions and submit comments relevant to the objectives of the pilot program and the process by which those objectives are proposed to be addressed at the Radiochemical Engineering Development Center. Issues raised by stakeholders will be addressed in the final report following the pilot evaluation at ORNL.

Since 1994, the Department of Energy (DOE) has been considering whether there are advantages to be gained from external regulation of existing DOE

facilities. Two advisory groups recommended that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) be considered as the external regulator of nuclear and radiological safety at DOE sites. External regulation by the NRC may improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DOE's radiological safety programs. DOE facilities would be regulated consistent with other facilities of the same type engaged in similar activities, and the NRC could maintain complete independence because it has no responsibility for operating the facilities.

A number of background documents pertaining to the issue of NRC oversight of DOE facilities are available or will be made available prior to the meeting. These include:

- A draft Pilot Program Work Plan for the Radiochemical Engineering Development Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and DOE, dated November 21, 1997.
- An NRC Commission Paper entitled, "Status Report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Task Force On Oversight of the Department of Energy, In Response to COMSECY -96-053—DSI 2," SECY-97-206, dated September 12, 1997.
- An NRC Commission Paper entitled, "Status Report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Task Force On Oversight of the Department of Energy, In Response to COMSECY -96-053—DSI 2 (Report No. 2)," SECY-97-301, dated December 29, 1997.
- NRC Staff Requirements Memorandum: COMSECY-96-053, "Oversight of the Department of Energy (DSI 2)," dated March 28, 1997.
- NRC Direction Setting Issue Paper "Oversight of the Department of Energy" (DSI 2) dated September 16, 1996.
- Report of the DOE Working Group on External Regulation, dated December 1996.
- Report of the DOE Advisory Committee on External Regulation of DOE Nuclear Safety, dated December 1995.

You may view these documents at the DOE Oak Ridge Public Reading Room, American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, (423) 241-4780. Copies may be obtained by contacting Amy Rothrock at (423) 576-1216. These documents are also available on the joint DOE/NRC Web Site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NMSS/doepilot.html>. As documents are completed, they will be added to the web site. If you would like more

information about this meeting, or need special accommodations to attend, please contact Walter Perry of the DOE Public Affairs Office at (423) 576-0885.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of March, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Carl J. Paperiello,

Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 98-6393 Filed 3-11-98; 8:45 am]

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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:

- Rule 19d-1, SEC File No. 270-242, OMB Control No. 3235-0206
- Rule 19d-3, SEC File No. 270-245, OMB Control No. 3235-0204
- Rule 19h-1, SEC File No. 270-247, OMB Control No. 3235-0259

Notice is hereby 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 collections of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit these existing collections of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 19d-1 Notices by Self-Regulatory Organizations of Final Disciplinary Actions, Denials, Bars, or Limitations Respecting Membership, Association, Participation, or Access to Services, and Summary Suspension

Rule 19d-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") prescribes the form and content of notices to be filed with the Commission by self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") for which the Commission is the appropriate regulatory agency concerning the following final SRO actions: (1) disciplinary sanctions (including summary suspensions); (2) denials of membership, participation or association with a member; and (3) prohibitions or limitations on access to SRO services. The rule enables the Commission to obtain reports from the SROs containing information regarding SRO determinations to discipline members or associated persons of members, deny membership or

participation or association with a member, and similar adjudicated findings. The rule requires that such actions be promptly reported to the Commission. The rule also requires that the reports and notices supply sufficient information regarding the background, factual basis and issues involved in the proceeding to enable the Commission (1) to determine whether the matter should be called up for review on the Commission's own motion and (2) to ascertain generally whether the SRO has adequately carried out its responsibilities under the Act.

It is estimated that 10 respondents will utilize this application procedure annually, with a total burden of 2,750 hours, based upon past submissions. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with the requirements of Rule 19d-1 is 2.5 hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$60. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for the respondents is \$165,000.

Rule 19d-3 Applications for Review of Final Disciplinary Sanctions, Denials of Membership, Participation or Limitations of Access to Services Imposed by Self-Regulatory Organizations

Rule 19d-3 under the Act prescribes the form and content of applications to the Commission by persons desiring stays of final disciplinary sanctions and summary action of self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") for which the Commission is the appropriate regulatory agency. The Commission uses the information provided in the application filed pursuant to Rule 19d-3 to review final actions taken by SROs including: (1) disciplinary sanctions; (2) denials of membership, participation or association with a member; and (3) prohibitions on or limitations of access to SRO services.

It is estimated that approximately 50 respondents will utilize this application procedure annually, with a total burden of 2,750 hours, based upon past submissions. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with the requirements of Rule 19d-1 is 2.5 hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$60. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for the respondents is \$165,000.

Rule 19h-1 Notice by a Self-Regulatory Organization of a Proposed Admission to or Continuance in Membership or Participation or Association With a Member of Any Person Subject to a Statutory Disqualification, and Applications to the Commission for Relief Therefrom

Rule 19h-1 under the Act prescribes the form and content of notices and applications by self-regulatory organizations ("SROs") regarding proposed admissions to, or continuances in, membership, participation or association with a member of any person subject to a statutory disqualification.

The Commission uses the information provided in the submissions filed pursuant to Rule 19h-1 to review decisions of SROs to permit the entry into or continuance in the securities business of persons who have committed serious misconduct. The filings submitted pursuant to the Rule also permit inclusion of an application to the Commission for consent to associate with a member of an SRO notwithstanding a Commission order barring such association.

The Commission reviews filings made pursuant to the rule to ascertain whether it is in the public interest to permit the employment in the securities business of persons subject to statutory disqualification. The filings contain information that is essential to the staff's review and ultimate determination on whether an association or employment is in the public interest and consistent with investor protection.

It is estimated that approximately 5 respondents will make submissions pursuant to this rule annually, with a total burden of 225 hours, based upon past submissions. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with the requirements of Rule 19h-1 is 4.5 hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$60. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for the respondents is \$13,500.

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed 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 on or before May 11, 1998.

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: March 3, 1998.

Jonathan G. Katz,
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 SE, SEC File No. 270-289, OMB Control No. 3235-0327

Form ID, SEC File No. 270-291, OMB Control No. 3235-0328

Form ET, SEC File No. 270-290, OMB Control No. 3235-0329

Form TH, SEC File No. 270-377, OMB Control No. 3235-0425

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 requests for extension of the previously approved collections of information discussed below.

Form SE is used by registrants filing electronically on EDGAR to submit paper copies of exhibits to the Commission in order to identify them. Form SE results in an estimated total annual reporting burden of 200 hours.

Form ID is used by electronic filers to obtain or change an identification number. Form ID results in an estimated total annual reporting burden of 1,050 hours.

Form ET is used by electronic filers to submit a filing to the Commission on magnetic tape or diskette. Form ET results in an estimated total annual reporting burden of 30 hours.

Form TH is used by electronic filers to file electronic documents in paper pursuant to a temporary hardship exemption. Form TH results in an estimated total annual reporting burden of 66 hours.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to