

In Fall 1997, the survey achieved a total response rate of 98.5% for institutions and 98.3% for departments.

Estimate of Burden: Burden estimates are as follows:

	Total number of institutions	Departments	Burden hours
FY 1995	722	11,598	1.87
FY 1996	722	11,592	1.95
FY 1997	723	11,597	2.23

Respondents: Individuals.

Estimated Number of Responses: 11,597 (from the 1997 collection).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 23,690.

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Comments: 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 on respondents; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: May 28, 1999.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-14035 Filed 6-2-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-27]

BWX Technologies (BWXT), Lynchburg, VA Issuance of Environmental Assessment Regarding the Proposed Exemption From the Requirement in 10 CFR 70.25(e) To Provide a Decommissioning Cost Estimate

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to BWXT (the applicant) from the requirement of 10 CFR Part 70.25(e) to provide a decommissioning cost estimate (DCE) for the Naval Reactors (NR) work at BWXT. The BWXT facilities and operation are located at Lynchburg, Virginia.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action:

By letter dated April 8, 1999, and supplements dated May 10 and May 13, 1999, BWXT (the applicant) requested Materials License SNM-42 be amended to grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR Part 70.25(e) to provide a decommissioning cost estimate (DCE) for the Naval Reactors (NR) programs at BWXT, located at Lynchburg, Virginia. In a letter dated April 9, 1999, from the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of NR, NR supported BWXT's request for an exemption.

Need for the Proposed Action: The BWXT operation involves the manufacturing of nuclear fuels for the U. S. Navy program. When BWXT's operations cease, the NRC will require decommissioning of the facilities and land in accordance with the requirements specified in 10 CFR 70.25. As described in the applicant's license amendment request and the NR April 9, 1999, letter, the exemption is requested in order to eliminate the need to prepare a detailed decommissioning cost estimate to be filed together with the Statement of Intent that the Federal government will be responsible for the cost of decommissioning. The following information, as detailed in the applicant's request and NR's letter, provide support for the exemption request: (1) The DOE, through NR, is contractually obligated to pay the expenses eventually incurred by BWXT in decommissioning the BWXT facilities associated with NR work; (2) NR has an adequate understanding of the potential costs of decommissioning the BWXT facilities used in NR work; (3) a detailed DCE prepared now will not be valid when decommissioning occurs many years from now; (4) exempting BWXT at this time from the requirement for a DCE would not endanger life or property or the common defense and security; and (5) the Federal Government will not obtain a benefit commensurate with the expenditure of public funds to prepare a detailed DCE.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The NRC staff has examined the applicant's proposed exemption request and concluded that the proposed exemption request is procedural and administrative in nature. Since the Federal Government will be responsible for the ultimate financial cost in the decommissioning of the applicant's facilities, exempting BWXT at this time from the requirement for a DCE will not endanger life or property, or the common defense and security,

and will not cause any environmental impact.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action: Since there is no environmental impact associated with this proposed action, no alternatives other than the proposed action were evaluated.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: No other agency or persons were consulted for this proposed action since the proposed action is procedural and administrative in nature and the final financial cost for the decommissioning of the applicant's facilities is assured by the Federal Government.

Finding of No Significant Impact

As discussed above, the proposed action is procedural and administrative in nature and there is no environmental impact associated with this action. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

This application for the proposed action was docketed under 10 CFR part 70, Docket No. 70-27. For further details with respect to this action, see the April 8, 1999, exemption request, and other above-mentioned letters which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of May 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Theodore S. Sherr,

Chief, Licensing and International Safeguards Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 99-14049 Filed 6-2-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 110th meeting on June 28-30, 1999, at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, Southwest Research Institute, 6220 Culebra Road, Building 189, San Antonio, Texas.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

Monday, June 28, 1999—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.

Tuesday, June 29, 1999—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.

Wednesday, June 30, 1999—8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The following topics will be discussed:

A. *ACNW Planning and Procedures*—The Committee will hear a briefing from its staff on issues to be covered during this meeting. The Committee will also consider topics proposed for future consideration by the full Committee and Working Groups. The Committee will discuss ACNW-related activities of individual members.

B. *Review Activities Underway at the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA)*—The Committee will review activities underway at the CNWRA. Discussions will include an overview of the Center, including its historical evolution. Each of the 10 high-level waste key technical issues (KTIs) will be reviewed with special emphasis placed on four KTIs: Igneous Activity, Evolution of the Near-Field, Repository Design and Thermal Mechanical Effects, and Container Life and Source Term.

C. *Laboratory Tours*—The Committee will visit a number of experiments underway at the Center involving: hydrology and thermal-hydrology, geochemistry and radionuclide transport, structural geology modeling, and materials performed.

D. *Yucca Mountain Environmental Impact Statement*—The Committee will review the staff's plans for reviewing the Department of Energy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Yucca Mountain project.

E. *Total-System Performance Assessment (TPA) Code 3.2 Sensitivity Study*—The Committee will review the results of the system level sensitivity and uncertainty analyses to determine the parameters that have the most influence on repository performance.

F. *Defense In-Depth*—The NRC staff and the CNWRA will discuss the current concept of defense in-depth as it applies to a high-level waste repository.

G. *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Yucca Mountain Site Specific Standards (tentative)*—The Committee may offer comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on EPA's Yucca Mountain site specific standard 40 CFR part 191 should the proposed standard be made publicly available. The timing for release of the standard remains uncertain.

H. *Preparation of ACNW Reports*—The Committee will discuss planned reports on the following topics: a White Paper on Repository Design Issues at Yucca Mountain and other topics discussed during this and previous meetings as the need arises.

I. *Miscellaneous*—The Committee will discuss miscellaneous matters related to

the conduct of Committee activities and organizational activities and complete discussion of matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACNW meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 1998 (63 FR 51967). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Associate Director for Technical Support, ACNW, Dr. Richard P. Savio, as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to schedule the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting will be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for taking pictures may be obtained by contacting the Associate Director for Technical Support, ACNW, prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should notify Dr. Savio as to their particular needs.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting Dr. Richard P. Savio, Associate Director for Technical Support, ACNW (Telephone 301/415-7363), between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EDT.

ACNW meeting notices, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are now available for downloading or reviewing on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

Dated: May 27, 1999.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 99-14048 Filed 6-2-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Proposed Revision to Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800), Chapter 13, "Conduct of Operations, Sections 13.1.1, "Management and Technical Support Organization," and 13.1.2-1.3, "Operating Organization"

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has prepared a revision to NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants—LWR Edition," Chapter 13, "Conduct of Operations," sections 13.1.1, "Management and Technical Support Organization," and 13.1.2-1.3, "Operating Organization." The Standard Review Plan (SRP) contains guidance used by the staff to review safety analysis reports for light water reactor commercial nuclear power plants. The proposed revision incorporates changes that have been made since the sections were last revised in April, 1996, and publically noticed in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 61, No. 162, Tuesday, August 20, 1996. There were no public comments received to these sections. The proposed revision addresses 10 CFR 50.80 requirements for "Transfer of Licenses." Specifically, the staff has revised Chapter 13, "Conduct of Operations," sections 13.1.1, "Management and Technical Support Organization," and 13.1.2-1.3, "Operating Organization" of the SRP as they relate to 10 CFR 50.80 requirements for the applicant's technical qualifications. The April, 1996 revision of these SRP sections did not include guidance for the staff to review the technical qualifications of applicants for license transfer.

The purpose of this notice is to solicit specific public comment on whether the revised text accurately and fully reflects the established NRC staff positions and existing regulations. The SRP is made available to the public as part of the NRC's policy to inform the nuclear industry and the general public of regulatory procedures and policies. The SRP is not a substitute for regulatory guides or NRC regulations. Compliance with the SRP is not required. The published SRP will be revised periodically, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and reflect new information and experience. The NRC encourages comment from all interested parties; however, public