

determined that the exemption request from the provisions of 10 CFR 50.60 and Appendix G was necessary since these regulations require, as noted above, that the reactor vessel conditions not exceed the P-T limits established by Appendix G. In referring to 10 CFR 50.12 on specific exemptions, NSP cited special circumstances as stated in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) on achieving the underlying purpose of the regulations as its basis for requesting this exemption.

The underlying purpose of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G, is to establish fracture toughness requirements for the reactor coolant system (RCS) pressure boundary to provide adequate margins of safety during any condition of normal operation. The OPPS provides a physical means of protecting these limits. NSP proposed that establishing the OPPS pressure setpoint per the N-514 provisions such that the vessel pressure would not exceed 110 percent of the P-T limit allowables would still provide an acceptable level of safety and mitigate the potential for an inadvertent actuation of the OPPS.

The plant operators must operate the plant in a pressure window that is between the minimum pressure required to preserve reactor coolant pump seals and at a maximum pressure that does not challenge the power-operated relief valve setpoint. Without the application of ASME Code Case N-514, Prairie Island would have an operating window that is too narrow to permit reasonable system makeup and pressure control. Further reduction of the OPPS setpoint below 500 psig would increase the probability that the reactor coolant pumps' no. 1 seal will fail as a result of OPPS operation, and that such a seal failure could produce a breach in the RCS boundary that could not be isolated. Therefore, inadvertent OPPS actuation could lead to a small break loss-of-coolant accident and the unnecessary release of reactor coolant inside containment.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action involves features located entirely within the protected areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no

significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 7, 1998, the staff consulted with the Minnesota State official, Mike McCarthy of the Department of Public Service, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 6, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the Local Public Document Room located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of April, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cynthia A. Carpenter,

Director, Project Directorate III-1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-11339 Filed 4-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Survey of Steel Mills: Support of a Risk Assessment of Generally and Specifically Licensed Devices

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Survey of Steel Mills: Withdrawal.

SUMMARY: On August 14, 1997, (62 FR 43556) NRC announced its intentions to conduct a survey of the steel industry for obtaining data tailored to a risk analysis. The survey would have provided empirical data about discoveries of radioactive material in the recycling stream. A risk analysis would use this information as the basis to systematically evaluate the effectiveness of current regulation and possible regulatory changes. The analysis supports regulatory changes toward improving the control of radioactive devices commonly used in many industries.

The NRC received three letters from trade associations and a steel mill. All of these letters indicated that their organizations would not support the survey. Because participation in the survey would be voluntary and the letters were negative, the response rate for the survey would likely be low, resulting in insufficient data for a risk analysis as originally planned. Therefore, the NRC has decided not to conduct the survey.

NRC is continuing the risk analysis with appropriate adjustments to accommodate for the lack of data available without the survey. The NRC will re-evaluate the need for the survey after the risk analysis is completed. If the NRC decides to conduct the survey at a later date, the survey will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Ryder, Mail Stop TWFN 10E-50, Division of Systems Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-6102; electronic mail address: CPR@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, MD., this 22nd day of April, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Donald A. Cool,

Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 98-11341 Filed 4-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Reclearance of a Revised Information Collection: Form RI 20-1

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) intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget a request for reclearance of a revised information collection. RI 20-1, Application for Minimum Annuity, is completed by annuitants to determine if they qualify for minimum annuity under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 8345(f).

Comments are particularly invited on: whether this 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 of information 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 appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Approximately 50 RI 20-1 forms will be completed annually. We estimate it takes approximately 15 minutes to complete the form. The annual burden is 13 hours.

For copies of this proposal, contact Jim Farron on (202) 418-3208, or E-mail to jmfarron@opm.gov

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before June 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to Lorraine E. Dettman, Chief, Operations Support Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3349, Washington, DC 20415.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION CONTACT: Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Budget & Administrative Services Division, (202) 606-0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 98-11405 Filed 4-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 7, 1998.

The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Room 5A06A, Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates under subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as amended, and from time to time advise the Office of Personnel Management.

This scheduled meeting will start in open session with both labor and management representatives attending. During the meeting either the labor members or the management members may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of a meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded

recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee's Secretary.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Committee's Secretary, Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5559, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415 (202) 606-1500.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

Phyllis G. Heuerman,

Acting Chair, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-11356 Filed 4-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

POSTAL SERVICE

Revised Form 8125, Plant-Verified Drop Shipment (PVDS) Verification/ Clearance and New Facsimile Consolidated Form 8125, Plant-Verified Drop Shipment (PVDS) Verification/ Clearance; Consolidated

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice presents pending revisions to Form 8125, *Plant-Verified Drop Shipment (PVDS) Verification/Clearance*, and Form 8125-C, a new *Plant-Verified Drop Shipment (PVDS) Verification/Clearance—Consolidated* form intended for use as a computer-generated facsimile. The Mailer's Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) 8125 Redesign Work Group developed the revised forms. The Postal Service expects the revised hard copy Form 8125 to be available this summer. Once the final format is approved, Forms 8125 and 8125-C will be available on the USPS Web (www.usps.gov/buscctr/welcome.htm under business forms).

In addition, Form 2866-IP, *In-Plant Verification for Second- and Fourth-Class Matter*, will be eliminated upon implementation of the revised forms 8125 and 8125-C. Form 2866-IP is used by some Periodicals mailers who pay postage through the Centralized Postage Payment (CPP) program.

To ensure that the revised Forms 8125 and facsimile 8125-C meet the needs of customers, the Postal Service is seeking comments from PVDS mailers regarding the revisions described in this notice. Copies of the revised draft Forms 8125 and 8125-C are available for review on the USPS Web page in the business section under Rates & Classification