

to make oral statements should notify Mr. Sam Duraiswamy, Chief of the Nuclear Reactors Branch, at least five days before the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman.

Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Chief of the Nuclear Reactors Branch prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the Chief of the Nuclear Reactors Branch if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

In accordance with Subsection 10(d) Public Law 92-463, I have determined that it is necessary to close portions of this meeting noted above to discuss matters that relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of this Advisory Committee per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2), and to discuss information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

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 Mr. Sam Duraiswamy, Chief of the Nuclear Reactors Branch (telephone 301/415-7364), between 7:30 A.M. and 4:15 P.M. EDT.

ACRS meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available for downloading or viewing on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

Video teleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACRS meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACRS meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACRS Audio Visual Technician, (301-415-8066) between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Eastern Time at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment facilities that they use to establish the video teleconferencing link. The availability of video teleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

Dated: October 8, 1998.

**Annette Vietti-Cook,**

*Acting Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 98-27655 Filed 10-14-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, Joint Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and on Regulatory Policies and Practices; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittees on Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment and on Regulatory Policies and Practices will hold a meeting on October 29 and 30, 1998, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

*Thursday, October 29, 1998-8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.*

*Friday, October 30, 1998-8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.*

The Subcommittees will continue its discussion of proposed options to make 10 CFR Part 50 risk-informed, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Whole Plant Study, and options for developing a risk-informed approach to revising 10 CFR 50.59. The Subcommittees will also review the staff's safety evaluation report for the Westinghouse Owners Group topical report on risk-informed inservice inspection of piping at nuclear power plants, as well as the results of the associated pilot applications. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. 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 Subcommittees, their consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittees, along with

any of their consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittees will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, its consultants, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, and the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Michael T. Markley (telephone 301/415-6885) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.(EDT). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Date: October 7, 1998.

**Sam Duraiswamy,**

*Chief Nuclear Reactors Branch.*

[FR Doc. 98-27657 Filed 10-14-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### State of Arkansas Relinquishment of Sealed Source and Device Evaluation and Approval Authority and Reassumption by the Commission

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of reassumption of sealed source and device evaluation and approval authority from the State of Arkansas.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that effective October 1, 1998, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reassumed regulatory authority for sealed source and device evaluations and approvals in the Agreement State of Arkansas in response to a request from the Governor of the State of Arkansas to relinquish this authority.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Lloyd A. Bolling, Jr., Agreement State Project Officer, Office of State Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-2327, Internet: LAB@NRC.GOV.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Currently, the State of Arkansas has an Agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) which grants the

State authority to regulate specific categories of radioactive materials formerly regulated by the NRC. This Agreement was entered into on July 1, 1963, pursuant to Section 274b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

The NRC received a letter from Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee dated July 1, 1998 requesting relinquishment of the State's authority to evaluate and approve sealed source and devices, and reassertion of this authority by the NRC. The requested action would involve reassertion of regulatory authority by NRC over activities currently regulated by Arkansas pursuant to its Agreement with NRC.

The Governor indicated that specific requests for the Arkansas Radiation Control Program to perform SS&D evaluations had been few (three requests) since Arkansas became an Agreement State in 1963. He further indicated that no requests for SS&D evaluations were anticipated. The Governor stated that Arkansas is committed to maintaining a high quality regulatory program for radioactive materials. He also indicated that it would be difficult to maintain high quality in an extremely small and unique program area that demands atypical expertise on an infrequent basis and the State could not justify the resources required to perform the evaluations. Based on this, the State requests to relinquish its authority to perform sealed source and device evaluations.

The Commission has agreed to the request and has notified Arkansas that effective October 1, 1998 the NRC reassumed authority to evaluate and approve sealed source and devices within the State of Arkansas. The State of Arkansas will retain authority to regulate the manufacture and use of sealed sources and devices within the State in accordance with its Section 274b Agreement with the NRC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 8th day of October, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Annette Vietti-Cook,**

*Acting Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 98-27656 Filed 10-14-98; 8:45 am]

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## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

### Interest Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest on Late Premium Payments; Interest on Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability and Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

**ACTION:** Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

**SUMMARY:** This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

**DATES:** The interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in October 1998. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in November 1998. The interest rates for late premium payments under part 4007 and for underpayments and overpayments of single-employer plan termination liability under part 4062 and multiemployer withdrawal liability under part 4219 apply to interest accruing during the fourth quarter (October through December) of 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The rate is the "applicable percentage" (described in the statute and the regulation) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury

securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). The yield figure is reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15.

For plan years beginning before July 1, 1997, the applicable percentage of the 30-year Treasury yield was 80 percent. The Retirement Protection Act of 1994 (RPA) amended ERISA section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) to change the applicable percentage to 85 percent, effective for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 1997. (The amendment also provides for a further increase in the applicable percentage—to 100 percent—when the Internal Revenue Service adopts new mortality tables for determining current liability.)

The assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in October 1998 is 4.42 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.20 percent yield figure for September 1998).

(Under section 774(c) of the RPA, the amendment to the applicable percentage was deferred for certain regulated public utility (RPU) plans for as long as six months. The applicable percentage for RPU plans has therefore remained 80 percent for plan years beginning before January 1, 1998. For "partial" RPU plans, the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums can be computed by applying the rules in § 4006.5(g) of the premium rates regulation. The PBGC's 1997 premium payment instruction booklet also describes these rules and provides a worksheet for computing the assumed rate.)

The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between November 1997 and October 1998. The rates for November and December 1997 in the table (which reflect an applicable percentage of 85 percent) apply only to non-RPU plans. However, the rates for months after December 1997 apply to RPU (and "partial" RPU) plans as well as to non-RPU plans.

For premium payment years beginning in:	The assumed interest rate is:
November 1997 .....	5.38
December 1997 .....	5.19
January 1998 .....	5.09
February 1998 .....	4.94
March 1998 .....	5.01
April 1998 .....	5.06
May 1998 .....	5.03
June 1998 .....	5.04
July 1998 .....	4.85