

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, and STN 50-530]

Arizona Public Service Company, Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (Palo Verde, or the licensee), Units 1, 2, and 3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would submit revisions to the UFSAR, common to all three units, to the NRC no later than 24 calendar months from the previous revision. The licensee also requested that the exemption apply to (1) revisions made to the quality assurance program (which has been incorporated into the UFSAR) pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3), (2) the safety evaluation summary reports for facility changes made under 10 CFR 50.59 pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59(b)(2), and (3) the reports of changes to the Technical Specification (TS) Bases.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated June 9, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated December 21, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to reduce undue regulatory burden for units that share a common UFSAR regarding the requirements of Section 50.71(e)(4). Section 50.71(e)(4) requires licensees to submit updates to their UFSAR annually or within 6 months after each refueling outage provided that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since all three Palo Verde units share a common UFSAR, the licensee must update the same document annually or within 6 months after a refueling outage for each unit. The underlying purpose of the rule was to relieve licensees of the burden of filing annual FSAR revisions while

assuring that such revisions are made at least every 24 months.

The Commission reduced the burden, in part, by permitting a licensee to submit its FSAR revisions 6 months after refueling outages for its facility, but did not provide in the rule for multiple unit facilities sharing a common FSAR. Rather, the Commission stated, "With respect to the concern about multiple facilities sharing a common FSAR, licensees will have maximum flexibility for scheduling updates on a case-by-case basis" (57 FR 39355). Allowing the exemption would maintain the UFSAR current within 24 months of the last revision. Submission of the quality assurance program changes and the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report with the UFSAR revision, as permitted by 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3) and 10 CFR 50.59(b)(2), respectively, also would not exceed a 24-month interval. In addition, submission of the TS Bases changes made in accordance with TS 5.5.14 would not exceed a 24-month interval.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action is administrative in nature and unrelated to plant operations.

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 increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with this action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with this action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). 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

The proposed action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, dated February 1982 (NUREG-0841).

Agencies and Persons Contacted

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 13, 1999, the staff consulted with the Arizona State official, Mr. Audbry Godwin of the Arizona Radiation Protection Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of 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 June 9, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated December 21, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC, and at the local public document room located at the Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 25th day of June 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mel B. Fields,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Clearance of a Revised Information Collection: RI 30-2 and RI 30-44**

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 clearance of a revised information collection. RI 30-2, Annuitant's Report of Earned Income, is used annually to determine if disability retirees under age 60 have earned income which will result in the termination of their annuity benefits. RI 30-44, Annuitant's Report of Income—Followup, is sent to annuitants whose returned RI 30-2 forms are unusable or damaged.

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 use of the appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

We estimate 21,000 RI 30-2 forms and 260 RI 30-44 forms are completed annually. The RI 30-2 takes approximately 35 minutes to complete for an estimated annual burden of 12,250 hours. The RI 30-44 takes approximately 5 minutes to complete for an estimated annual burden of 22 hours. The total annual estimate burden is 12,272.

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 September 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—Dennis A. Matteotti, Acting 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: Cyrus S. Benson, Budget & Administrative Services Division, (202) 606-0623.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-16989 Filed 7-2-99; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

[RI 20-63]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Review of a Revised Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 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 review of a revised information collection. RI 20-63, Survivor Annuity Election for a Spouse, is used by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) to provide information about the amount of annuity payable after a survivor reduction and to obtain a survivor benefits election from annuitants who are eligible to elect to provide survivor benefits for a spouse. Using RI 20-63 the annuitant may elect the survivor benefit, decline to make the election, or ask for information about electing less than the maximum survivor benefit.

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 2,400 RI 20-63 forms and 200 cover letters are completed per year. It is estimated to take approximately 45 minutes to complete the form with a burden of 1,800 hours and 10 minutes to complete the letter, which gives a burden of 34 hours. The total burden for RI 20-63 is 1,834 hours.

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 September 7, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—Ronald W. Melton, 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: Phyllis R. Pinkney, Management Analyst, Budget & Administrative Services Division, (202) 606-0623.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-16991 Filed 7-2-99; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

[RI 25-49]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Review of a Revised Information Collection

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) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for review of a revised information collection. To verify that adult student annuitants are entitled to payments, OPM needs to know that a full-time enrollment has been maintained. RI 25-49, Verification of Full-Time School Attendance, is used for this purpose.

Approximately 10,000 RI 25-49 forms are completed annually. Each form takes approximately 60 minutes to complete. The annual estimated burden is 10,000 hours.

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 August 5, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—

Dennis A. Matteotti, Acting Chief, Operations Support Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3349, Washington, DC 20415

and
Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION—CONTACT: Phyllis R. Pinkney,