

in order to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. To do that in a cost efficient manner for the taxpayer, RBS is proposing to implement an annual renewal fee. This will reduce the subsidy but will allow us to maintain the level of assistance that has been historically provided for this program at a level or even reduced cost to the taxpayers.

The proposed annual renewal fee is based on Small Business Administration (SBA) programs and is adopted for this program to provide additional funds to supplement the available funds appropriate to the program, thereby allowing the program to reach more potential applicants. Additionally, this type of fee is consistent with the recently authorized Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Guaranteed Loan Program within RBS. The borrower pool for the B&I Guaranteed Loan is even more likely to be able to afford this type of fee than the other programs mentioned because they are not required to lack the ability to get credit elsewhere.

The SBA 7(a) Loan Guarantee Program and the B&I program are similar in that they both require an initial one-time fee; and 7(a) loans have an annual fee similar to the one being proposed for the B&I program. In fiscal year 1996, SBA made major changes in its 7(a) program by lowering the maximum percentage of the loan which could be guaranteed and increasing both the initial fee and the annual fee, which made the program more expensive and less valuable for borrowers and lenders. We examined changes in loan volume and loss levels associated with these changes, and found no convincing evidence that the FY96 changes decreased demand for the 7(a) program.

Subsidy rates are established using historic loss data from the program and other assumptions. In recent years the subsidy rate has increased significantly, resulting in a reduction in the amount of loans that could be guaranteed with the same budget authority. In the absence of additional budgetary authority, the proposed annual fee is necessary to cover expected losses from the program. The effect of the fee on the loan demand and program activity over the long term will depend on the size of the fee and other factors not related to the fee, including interest rates and general economic growth. This proposed change is prudent and cost efficient and will allow us to maintain the level of assistance going to rural

America at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 4279

Loan programs—Business and industry—Rural development assistance, Rural areas.

Therefore, chapter XLII, title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 4279—GUARANTEED LOANMAKING

1. The authority citation for part 4279 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C 301, 7 U.S.C 1989.

Subpart B—Business and Industry Loans

2. Section 4279.107 is revised to read as follows:

§ 4279.107 Guarantee fee.

(a) For all new loans there are two types of non-refundable guarantee fees to be paid by the borrower to the lender and forwarded to the Agency. The fees may be forwarded to the Agency by a check payable to USDA/Rural Development, using Agency Form “Annual Renewal Fee Transmittal” or an USDA-approved electronic funds transfer system. The fee rate will be published annually by a notice in the **Federal Register**.

(1) The initial fee is paid at the time the Loan Note Guarantee is issued. The fee may be included as an eligible loan purpose in the guaranteed loan. The fee will be the rate (a specified percentage) multiplied by the principal loan amount, multiplied by the percent of guarantee.

(2) The annual renewal fee is paid once a year and is required to maintain the enforceability of the guarantee as to the lender.

(i) The annual renewal fee is the rate established by Rural Development in the annual notice in the **Federal Register**, multiplied by the outstanding principal loan amount, as of December 31 of each year. The rate of the fee is the rate in effect at the time of original issuance of the Conditional Commitment for the loan and will remain in effect for the life of the loan.

(ii) Annual renewal fees are due on March 1. Payments not received by April 1 are delinquent and will result in cancellation of the guarantee to the lender. Holders' rights will continue in effect as specified in the Loan Note Guarantee. For loans where the Loan Note Guarantee is issued between October 1 and December 31, the first annual guarantee fee payment is due March 1 of the second year following

the date the Loan Note Guarantee was issued.

(b) Subject to specified annual limits set by the Agency, the initial guarantee fee may be reduced to 1 percent if the borrower's business supports value-added agriculture and results in farmers benefiting financially, or

(1) Is a high impact business development investment in accordance with § 4279.155(b)(5), and

(2) Is located in a rural community that is:

(i) Experiencing long-term population decline and job deterioration, or

(ii) Has remained persistently poor over the last 60 years, or

(iii) Experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster, or

(iv) That is experiencing fundamental structural changes in its economic base.

Dated: February 16, 2005.

Gilbert Gonzalez,

Acting Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 05-3775 Filed 2-25-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 72

RIN 3150-AH63

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NUHOMS®-24PT4 Revision

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations revising the Transnuclear, Inc., Standardized Advanced NUHOMS® System listing within the “List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks” to include Amendment No. 1 to Certificate of Compliance Number (CoC No.) 1029. Amendment No. 1 would add another Dry Shielded Canister, designated NUHOMS®-24PT4, to the authorized contents of the Standardized Advanced NUHOMS® System. Also, the NRC staff is proposing that changes be made to the rule to correct a typographical error that incorrectly states the expiration date of the CoC.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before March 30, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods. Please include the following number (RIN 3150-AH63) in the subject line of your comments. Comments on rulemakings submitted in writing or in

electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including personal information such as social security numbers and birth dates in your submission.

Mail comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

E-mail comments to: SECY@nrc.gov. If you do not receive a reply e-mail confirming that we have received your comments, contact us directly at (301) 415-1966. You may also submit comments via the NRC's rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>. Address questions about our rulemaking Web site to Carol Gallagher (301) 415-5905; e-mail cag@nrc.gov. Comments can also be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 am and 4:15 pm Federal workdays (telephone (301) 415-1966).

Fax comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at (301) 415-1101.

Publicly available documents related to this rulemaking may be viewed electronically on the public computers at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), O-1F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Selected documents, including comments, can be viewed and downloaded electronically via the NRC rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>.

Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC after November 1, 1999, are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. From this site, the public can gain entry into the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. An electronic copy of the proposed CoC and preliminary safety evaluation report can be found under ADAMS Accession No. ML043650049.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jayne M. McCausland, telephone (301) 415-6219, e-mail, jmm2@nrc.gov of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and

Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

For additional information see the direct final rule published in the final rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Procedural Background

This rule is limited to the changes contained in Amendment 1 to CoC No. 1029 and does not include other aspects of the Standardized Advanced NUHOMS® System design. The NRC is using the "direct final rule procedure" to issue this amendment because it represents a limited and routine change to an existing CoC that is expected to be noncontroversial. Adequate protection of public health and safety continues to be ensured. The direct final rule will become effective on May 16, 2005. However, if the NRC receives significant adverse comments by March 30, 2005, then the NRC will publish a document that withdraws the direct final rule and will subsequently address the comments received, in a final rule. The NRC will not initiate a second comment period on this action.

A significant adverse comment is a comment where the commenter explains why the rule would be inappropriate, including challenges to the rule's underlying premise or approach, or would be ineffective or unacceptable without a change. A comment is adverse and significant if:

(1) The comment opposes the rule and provides a reason sufficient to require a substantive response in a notice-and-comment process. For example, in a substantive response:

(a) The comment causes the NRC staff to reevaluate (or reconsider) its position or conduct additional analysis;

(b) The comment raises an issue serious enough to warrant a substantive response to clarify or complete the record; or

(c) The comment raises a relevant issue that was not previously addressed or considered by the NRC staff.

(2) The comment proposes a change or an addition to the rule, and it is apparent that the rule would be ineffective or unacceptable without incorporation of the change or addition.

(3) The comment causes the NRC staff to make a change (other than editorial) to the CoC or Technical Specifications.

List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 72

Administrative practice and procedure, Criminal penalties, Manpower training programs, Nuclear materials, Occupational safety and health, Penalties, Radiation protection,

Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Spent fuel, Whistleblowing.

For the reasons set out in the preamble and under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended; and 5 U.S.C. 553; the NRC is proposing to adopt the following amendments to 10 CFR part 72.

PART 72—LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL, HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE, AND REACTOR-RELATED GREATER THAN CLASS C WASTE

1. The authority citation for part 72 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 51, 53, 57, 62, 63, 65, 69, 81, 161, 182, 183, 184, 186, 187, 189, 68 Stat. 929, 930, 932, 933, 934, 935, 948, 953, 954, 955, as amended, sec. 234, 83 Stat. 444, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2071, 2073, 2077, 2092, 2093, 2095, 2099, 2111, 2201, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2282); sec. 274, Pub. L. 86-373, 73 Stat. 688, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2021); sec. 201, as amended, 202, 206, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended, 1244, 1246 (42 U.S.C. 5841, 5842, 5846); Pub. L. 95-601, sec. 10, 92 Stat. 2951 as amended by Pub. L. 102-486, sec. 7902, 106 Stat. 3123 (42 U.S.C. 5851); sec. 102, Pub. L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 853 (42 U.S.C. 4332); secs. 131, 132, 133, 135, 137, 141, Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2229, 2230, 2232, 2241, sec. 148, Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-235 (42 U.S.C. 10151, 10152, 10153, 10155, 10157, 10161, 10168); sec. 1704, 112 Stat. 2750 (44 U.S.C. 3504 note).

Section 72.44(g) also issued under secs. 142(b) and 148(c), (d), Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-232, 1330-236 (42 U.S.C. 10162(b), 10168(c),(d)). Section 72.46 also issued under sec. 189, 68 Stat. 955 (42 U.S.C. 2239); sec. 134, Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2230 (42 U.S.C. 10154). Section 72.96(d) also issued under sec. 145(g), Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-235 (42 U.S.C. 10165(g)). Subpart J also issued under secs. 2(2), 2(15), 2(19), 117(a), 141(h), Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2202, 2203, 2204, 2222, 2244 (42 U.S.C. 10101, 10137(a), 10161(h)). Subparts K and L are also issued under sec. 133, 98 Stat. 2230 (42 U.S.C. 10153) and sec. 218(a), 96 Stat. 2252 (42 U.S.C. 10198).

2. In § 72.214, Certificate of Compliance 1029 is revised to read as follows:

§ 72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.

* * * * *

Certificate Number: 1029.

Initial Certificate Effective Date:

February 5, 2003.

Amendment Number 1 Effective Date:

May 16, 2005.

SAR Submitted by: Transnuclear, Inc.

SAR Title: Final Safety Analysis Report for the Standardized Advanced

NUHOMS® Horizontal Modular Storage System for Irradiated Nuclear Fuel.

Docket Number: 72–1029.

Certificate Expiration Date: February 5, 2023.

Model Number: Standardized Advanced NUHOMS®–24PT1, NUHOMS®–24PT4.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of February, 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Luis A. Reyes,

Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 05–3737 Filed 2–25–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 72

RIN 3150–AH64

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: HI-STORM 100 Revision

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations revising the Holtec International HI-STORM 100 cask system listing within the “List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks” to include Amendment No. 2 to Certificate of Compliance Number (CoC No.) 1014. Amendment No. 2 would modify the present cask system design to include changes to materials used in construction, changes to the types of fuel that can be loaded, changes to shielding and confinement methodologies and assumptions, revisions to various temperature limits, changes in allowable fuel enrichments, and other changes to reflect current NRC staff guidance and use of industry codes under a general license.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before March 30, 2005.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods. Please include the following number (RIN 3150–AH64) in the subject line of your comments. Comments on rulemakings submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including personal information such as social security numbers and birth dates in your submission.

Mail comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jayne M. McCausland, telephone (301) 415–6219, e-mail, jmm2@nrc.gov of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information see the direct final rule published in the final rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Procedural Background

This rule is limited to the changes contained in Amendment 2 to CoC No. 1014 and does not include other aspects of the HI-STORM 100 cask system design. The NRC is using the “direct final rule procedure” to issue this amendment because it represents a limited and routine change to an existing CoC that is expected to be noncontroversial. Adequate protection of public health and safety continues to be ensured. The direct final rule will become effective on May 16, 2005. However, if the NRC receives significant adverse comments by March 30, 2005, then the NRC will publish a document that withdraws the direct final rule and will subsequently address the comments received in a final rule. The NRC will not initiate a second comment period on this action.

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List of Subjects In 10 CFR Part 72

Administrative practice and procedure, Criminal penalties, Manpower training programs, Nuclear materials, Occupational safety and health, Penalties, Radiation protection, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Spent fuel, Whistleblowing.

For the reasons set out in the preamble and under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended; and 5 U.S.C. 553; the NRC