

than 20 years before expiration of its operating license.

#### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would allow DNC to submit one application for renewal of the operating licenses of both nuclear units located at the site, with the goal of attaining efficiencies for preparation and review of the application.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the issuance of the proposed exemption will not have a significant environmental impact. The proposed schedular exemption pertains solely to the future submission of an application to renew the MP3 operating license. It causes no changes to the current design or operation of MP3, and imparts no prejudice in the future review of the application for license renewal.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types or amounts of radiological effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant 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 have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives 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 action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for MP3, dated December 1984.

#### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

On November 5, 2003, the NRC staff consulted with the Connecticut official, Mr. Michael Firsick of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 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 NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC 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 December 13, 2002, as supplemented on April 28, 2003, and September 3, 2003. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of December, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

#### **Victor Nerses,**

*Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## **NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD**

### **Panel Meetings**

January 20 and 21, 2004—Las Vegas, Nevada: The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's panel on the Engineered Barrier System and Panel on the Waste Management System will meet to discuss issues related to the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, including design of the engineered system and information needed to plan for a system to transport

high-level radioactive waste spent nuclear fuel to the proposed repository.

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100-203, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, members of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on the Engineered Barrier System and Panel on the Waste Management System will meet in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday, January 20, and Wednesday, January 21, 2004, respectively. The panels will discuss issues related to the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, including design of the engineered system and information needed as the Department of Energy (DOE) plans a system for transporting high-level radioactive waste and spend nuclear fuel to the proposed repository. The meetings will be open to the public, and opportunities for public comment will be provided. The Board is charged by Congress with reviewing the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the DOE as stipulated in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act.

The panel meetings will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4255 South Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; (tel.) 702-369-4400; (fax) 702-369-3770. The Panel on the Engineered Barrier System is scheduled to meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20. The Panel on the Waste Management System is scheduled to meet from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21. Meeting times will be confirmed when agendas are issued, approximately one week before the meeting dates.

At the Engineered Barrier System Panel meeting on Tuesday, the DOE will begin with a project update, followed by presentations on preclosure safety analysis and surface and subsurface facility design. In the afternoon, the DOE will present information on the design of the waste package, the drip shield, and the invert. Representatives of Nye County, Nevada, will then present an update on county oversight activities related to the engineered system. The final presentation of the day will be an update on the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's science and technology program.

On Wednesday, the Waste Management System Panel will consider the information the DOE will need as it plans its transportation system. Invited participants include representatives of the DOE and state and local governments; utilities; truck, rail, and barge operators; and those involved in other transportation campaigns, including WIPP and naval spent fuel.

During the session related to information flow, participants will be asked to address four questions:

1. What are your Key Yucca Mountain transportation safety and security concerns?

2. How have you been able to address those concerns on the basis of the information and resources that the DOE has provided to date?

3. What concerns have you been unable to address? What does the DOE need to provide to allow this to happen?

4. How long will it take you to address those outstanding concerns once the DOE has provided what you need?

A second session on Wednesday will focus on lessons learned in transporting spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials. During that session, participants will be asked to address three questions:

1. What were (or are) the objectives and characteristics of the shipping campaign?

2. From a safety and security perspective, what worked (works) well and what did not (does not)?

3. What experiences and lessons learned may be transferable to the Yucca Mountain transportation program?

Time will set aside at the end of each day for public comments. Those wanting to speak are encouraged to sign the "Public Comment Register" at the check-in table. A time limit may have to be set on individuals remarks, but written comments of any length may be submitted for the record. Interested parties also will have the opportunity to submit questions in writing to the Board. As time permits, questions relevant to the discussion may be asked by Board members.

Detailed agendas will be available approximately one week before the meeting. Copies of the agendas can be requested by telephone or obtained from the Board's Web site at <http://www.nwtrb.gov>. Transcripts of the meetings will be available on the Board's Web site, by e-mail, on computer disk, and on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes of the Board's staff, beginning on February 24, 2004.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the St. Tropez Hotel for meeting participants. The St. Tropez is located at 455 E. Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89109; (tel.) 702-369-5400 and (fax) 702-369-1150. When making a reservation, please state that you are attending the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting. To receive the meeting rate, reservations should be made by December 31, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The NWTRB: Karyn Severson, External Affairs; 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300; Arlington, VA 22201-3367; (tel.) 703-235-4473; (fax) 703-235-4495; (e-mail) [info@nwtrb.gov](mailto:info@nwtrb.gov).

Dated: December 19, 2003.

**William D. Barnard,**

*Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.*

[FR Doc. 03-32046 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-AM-M**

## RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

*Summary:* In accordance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title and purpose of information collection:* Application to Act as Representative Payee; OMB 3220-0052. Under section 12 of the Railroad Retirement Act, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) may pay benefits to a representative payee when an employee, spouse or survivor annuitant is incompetent or is a minor. A representative payee may be a court-appointed guardian, a statutory conservator or an individual selected by the RRB. The procedures pertaining to the appointment and responsibilities of a representative payee are prescribed in 20 CFR 266.

The forms furnished by the RRB to apply for representative payee status, and for securing the information needed to support the application follow. RRB Form AA-5, *Application for Substitution of Payee*, obtains information needed to determine the selection of a representative payee who will serve in the best interest of the beneficiary. RRB Form G-478,

*Statement Regarding Patient's Capability to Manage Payments*, obtains information about an annuitant's capability to manage payments. The form is completed by the annuitant's personal physician or by a medical officer, if the annuitant is in an institution. It is not required when a court has appointed an individual or institution to manage the annuitant's funds, or in the absence of such appointment, when the annuitant is a minor. The RRB also provides representative payees with a booklet at the time of their appointment. The booklet, RRB Form RB-5, *Your Duties as Representative Payee-Representative Payee's Record*, advises representative payees of their responsibilities under 20 CFR 266.9 and provides a means for the representative payee to maintain records pertaining to the receipt and use of RRB benefits. The booklet is provided for the representative payee's convenience. The RRB also concepts records that were kept by representative payee's as part of a common business practice.

Completion is voluntary. One response is requested of each respondent. The RRB is proposing non-burden impacting formatting and editorial changes to Form AA-5. No changes are proposed for Form G-478 or Booklet RB-5. The estimated completion time(s) is estimated at 17 minutes for Form AA-5, 6 minutes for Form G-478 and 60 minutes for Booklet RB-5. The RRB estimates that approximately 3,000 Form AA-5's, 2,000 Form G-478's and 15,300 RB-5's are completed annually.

*Additional Information or Comments:* To request more information or to obtain a copy of the information collection justification, forms, and/or supporting material, please call the RRB Clearance Officer at (312) 751-3363 or send an e-mail request to [Charles.Mierzw@RRB.GOV](mailto:Charles.Mierzw@RRB.GOV). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 or send e-mail to [Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV](mailto:Ronald.Hodapp@RRB.GOV). Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

**Charles Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

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