Alternatives Creating Additional Storage Capacity

A variety of alternatives to increase the storage capacity of the FitzPatrick SFP were considered. Fuel rod consolidation was considered as a potential alternative and was eliminated because of the limited industry experience in disassembling irradiated fuel and because of the potential for fission product release due to rod breakage during disassembly. Additionally, because DOE considers consolidated fuel to be a non-standard waste form, the licensee could be concerned that the presence of fuel in this form would cause DOE to delay its acceptance of waste from FitzPatrick.

The early implementation of dry cask storage for irradiated fuel at FitzPatrick was also considered. Dry cask storage involves transferring irradiated fuel, after several years of storage in the FitzPatrick SFP, to high capacity casks with passive heat dissipation features. After loading, these casks would be placed on a concrete pad at an outdoor location on the FitzPatrick site. Although dry cask storage is planned by the licensee as a long-term storage option for FitzPatrick, the early implementation of this alternative was rejected by the licensee because the 442 storage locations provide needed irradiated fuel storage with less environmental impact and at lower cost.

As a result, the licensee concluded that none of the alternative technologies that could create additional spent fuel storage capacity at FitzPatrick could do so with less environmental impact than the impacts associated with the chosen option.

Reduction of Spent Fuel Generation

To minimize the quantities of irradiated fuel generated during full power operation at FitzPatrick, the licensee has developed efficient fuel loading patterns that seek to maximize the utilization of each assembly consistent with limits on the integrated fuel rod exposure. Batch discharge burnups for FitzPatrick fuel currently exceed 40 GWD/MT with peak assembly burnups reaching 46 GWD/MT by the time of discharge. The licensee expects batch average discharge exposure to exceed 43 GWD/MT after the current cycle and to increase to 45 GWD/MT thereafter. FitzPatrick depletes fuel assemblies to these burnups with minimal cladding perforations so that the fission product inventory present in the SFP water remains low. The high values of batch average and peak assembly discharge burnup ensure that the electricity generated by FitzPatrick yields the minimum possible amount of spent fuel.

The fuel assembly design used at FitzPatrick is not compatible with the IP3 core. As a result, partially irradiated fuel from other PASNY nuclear units cannot be used at FitzPatrick (or vice versa) to reduce the rate of spent fuel discharge.

Operation of FitzPatrick at a reduced power level for long periods of time would extend the existing SFP storage capacity. However, to compensate for the reduced generation by FitzPatrick another power generation facility would be required to increase its power output, possibly resulting in an increase in airborne pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The adverse environmental impact of increased airborne pollution and greenhouse gas omissions resulting from a long-term derate of FitzPatrick generating capacity is significantly greater than the environmental impact associated with increasing the storage capacity of the existing FitzPatrick SPF.

The No-Action Alternative

As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the ''no-action'' alternative). Denial of the application would result in no significant 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 FitzPatrick.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 24, 1999, the NRC staff consulted with the New York State official, Mr. Jack Spath, of the New York State Research and Development Authority, 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 October 14, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated July 23, 1998, December 3, 1998, February 25, 1999, and September 29, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (http://www.NRC.gov).

Dated at Rockville, MD., this 3rd day of November, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sheri R. Peterson,

Chief, Section I, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99–29315 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Correction to Biweekly Notice Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

On November 3, 1999, the **Federal Register** published the Biweekly Notice of Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Consideration. On page 59797 the 30-day date for hearing request should be corrected from ''December 10, 1999,'' to read ''By December 3, 1999, the licensee may file a request for a hearing. * * *''

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of November 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99–29316 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

In compliance with Public Law 104–13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collections that require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

I. The information collection listed below will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, comments and recommendations regarding the information collection would be most useful if received by the Agency within 60 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the address listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the collection instrument by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965–4145, or by writing to him at the address listed at the end of this publication.

1. Work Activity Report—Employee-0960–0059. The information on form SSA–821–BK will be used by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to obtain work information from beneficiaries in face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews, or by mail during the initial claims process, during the continuing disability review process, and whenever a work issue arises in Supplemental Security Income claims. The purpose of the SSA–821–BK is to collect information concerning whether beneficiaries have worked in employment after becoming disabled and, if so, whether that work is substantial gainful activity. The information will be used to determine if the recipient continues to meet the disability requirements of the law.

Number of Respondents: 300,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 45 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 225,000 hours.

II. The information collections listed below have been submitted to OMB for clearance. Written comments and recommendations on the information collections would be most useful if received within 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments should be directed to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and the OMB Desk Officer at the addresses listed at the end of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance packages by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965–4145, or by writing to him.

1. Referral System for Vocational Rehabilitation Providers 0960—NEW

Background

In 1996 the Social Security Administration (SSA) initiated an innovative expansion of its vocational rehabilitation (VR) referral and payment program. Under this program, SSA pays VR providers for the costs of VR services provided to disability beneficiaries, if such services result in the individual going to work at a specified earnings level for at least nine months. Throughout this project, SSA has expanded its VR program to increase the base of providers who are available to serve people with disabilities. By increasing this base, more people will be able to get the services they need to go to work, become independent of the benefit rolls, and thus achieve savings to SSA's trust funds.

In September 1997, SSA contracted with Birch & Davis Associates, Inc. (B&D), to provide management support to its expanded VR referral and payment program. This contract is for a three-year demonstration project known as the Referral System for Vocational Rehabilitation Providers (Project RSVP). SSA continues to be responsible for awarding Alternate Participant (AP) contracts to VR providers, determining the appropriateness of claims submitted by APs, and reimbursing APs for the costs of their services if the requirements for payment are met.

B&D supports SSA's efforts by marketing to and recruiting VR providers, training providers on SSA's VR program requirements, and operating an Information and Referral System to link providers with beneficiaries. In addition, B&D will conduct surveys of beneficiaries and APs to determine customer satisfaction and to identify program areas requiring improvement.

Information Collection

In support of the RSVP project, SSA will conduct semi-annual voluntary information collections of both AP's and Beneficiaries/Recipients (B/R). The data collection effort will be conducted in survey format and has four goals:

1. To help program administrators understand the reasons for varying levels of satisfaction with the program; 2. To help program administrators understand the potential causes for varying levels of success of the program; 3. To guide program change; and 4. If necessary, to plan continuation of the program after the initial trial period.

Through these voluntary surveys, SSA will collect three types of data:

1. Descriptive data that describe the B/R and data that describe the APs' vocational rehabilitation practice that are not available and are necessary to evaluate respondents' satisfaction in the context of their actual experience; 2. Quantitative data on B/R and AP satisfaction with the program; and 3. Free-text comments by B/Rs and APs regarding their experience with the program.

The data will be aggregated for all B/Rs and for all APs. A semi-annual report will be generated for SSA. The information will be used by AP program administrators at SSA and by B&D project management staff. The respondents will be SSI/SSDI beneficiaries and APs under contract with SSA to provide vocational rehabilitation services to beneficiaries.

Survey form	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (minutes)	Estimated annual burden (hours)
Survey for APs who have submitted claims	12	2	20	8
Survey for APs who have not submitted a claim	314	2	20	210
Survey for B/Rs who have signed a Rehabilitation or Employment Plan	44	2	20	30
Survey for B/Rs who have not signed a Rehabilitation or Employment Plan	2,000	2	20	1,334
Total Annual Burden Hours Requested				1,582

2. Statement of Income and Resources—0960–0124. The information collected by the Social Security Administration on Form SSA–8010 is necessary in the SSI eligibility/payment process. Information about the income and resources of ineligible spouses/parents/children and sponsors of aliens is used in the ''Deeming'' process. ''Deeming'' is the attribution of another's income to an eligible individual/child/alien. The respondents are ineligible spouses, parents, and children who live in the same household as an eligible individual/child, and sponsors of aliens.

Number of Respondents: 355,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 25 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 147,917 hours.

3. Public Law 105–306, Noncitizen Benefit Clarification and Other Technical Amendments Act of 1998 provided that nonqualified aliens who were receiving SSI on August 22, 1996 would remain eligible for SSI as long as all other requirements for eligibility were met (*e.g.*, income and resources, etc.). Section 416.1618 of the Code of Federal Regulations require nonqualified aliens to give SSA certain evidence which proves that they are lawfully admitted to the United States, in order to qualify for SSI benefits. Aliens who are alleging Permanent Residence Under Color Of Law (PRUCOL) must present evidence of their status at the time of application for SSI benefits and periodically thereafter. The respondents are nonqualified aliens who apply for or receive SSI benefits.

Number of Respondents: 9,000.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Average Burden Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 750 hours.

(SSA Address)

Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1–A–21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD 21235

(OMB Address)

Office of Management and Budget, OIRA, Attn: Lori Schack, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20503

Dated: November 3, 1999.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 99–29238 Filed 11–8–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191–02–U

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

North American Free Trade Agreement; Invitation for Applications for Inclusion on the Chapter 19 Roster

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Invitation for applications.

SUMMARY: Chapter 19 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) provides for the establishment of a roster of individuals to serve on binational panels convened to review final determinations in antidumping or countervailing duty (AD/CVD) proceedings and amendments to AD/CVD statutes of a NAFTA Party. The United States annually renews its selections for the Chapter 19 roster. Applications are invited from eligible individuals wishing to be included on the roster for the period April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001.

DATES: Applications should be received no later than December 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be sent to Ms. Leah Mayo, Attn: Chapter 19 Roster Applications, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: With regard to the form of the application, Ms. Leah Mayo, (202) 395–3432; with regard to eligibility requirements, David J. Ross, Assistant General Counsel, (202) 395–3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Binational Panel Reviews Under NAFTA Chapter 19

Article 1904 of the NAFTA provides that a party involved in an AD/CVD proceeding may obtain review by a binational panel of a final AD/CVD determination of one NAFTA Party with respect to the products of another NAFTA Party. Binational panels decide whether such AD/CVD determinations are in accordance with the domestic laws of the importing NAFTA Party, and must use the standard of review that would have been applied by a domestic court of the importing NAFTA Party. A panel may uphold the AD/CVD determination, or may remand it to the national administering authority for action not inconsistent with the panel's decision. Panel decisions may be reviewed in specific circumstances by a three-member extraordinary challenge committee, selected from a separate roster composed of fifteen current or former judges.

Article 1903 of the NAFTA provides that a NAFTA Party may refer an amendment to the AD/CVD statutes of another NAFTA Party to a binational panel for a declaratory opinion as to whether the amendment is inconsistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the GATT Antidumping or Subsidies Codes, successor agreements, or the object and purpose of the NAFTA with regard to the establishment of fair and predictable conditions for the liberalization of trade. If the panel finds that the amendment is inconsistent, the two NAFTA Parties shall consult and seek to achieve a mutually satisfactory solution.

Chapter 19 Roster and Composition of Binational Panels

Annex 1901.2 of the NAFTA provides for the maintenance of a roster of at least 75 individuals for service on Chapter 19 binational panels, with each NAFTA Party selecting at least 25 individuals. A separate five-person panel is formed for each review of a final AD/CVD determination or statutory amendment. To form a panel, the two NAFTA Parties involved each appoint two panelists, normally by drawing upon individuals from the roster. If the Parties cannot agree upon the fifth panelist, one of the Parties, decided by lot, selects the fifth panelist from the roster. The majority of individuals on each panel must consist of lawyers in good standing, and the chair of the panel must be a lawyer.

Upon each request for establishment of a panel, roster members from the two involved NAFTA Parties will be requested to complete a disclosure form, which will be used to identify possible conflicts of interest or appearances thereof. The disclosure form requests information regarding financial interests and affiliations, including information regarding the identity of clients of the roster member and, if applicable, clients of the roster member's firm.

Criteria for Eligibility for Inclusion on Chapter 19 Roster

Section 402 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103–182, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3432)) (''Section 402'') provides that selections by the United States of individuals for inclusion on the Chapter 19 roster are to be based on the eligibility criteria set out in Annex 1901.2 of the NAFTA, and without regard to political affiliation. Annex 1901.2 provides that Chapter 19 roster members must be citizens of a NAFTA Party, must be of good character and of high standing and repute, and are to be chosen strictly on the basis of their objectivity, reliability, sound judgment and general familiarity with international trade law. Aside from judges, roster members may not be affiliated with any of the three NAFTA Parties. Section 402 also provides that, to the fullest extent practicable, judges and former judges who meet the eligibility requirements should be selected.

Procedures for Selection of Chapter 19 Roster Members

Section 402 establishes procedures for the selection by the United States Trade Representative of the individuals chosen by the United States for inclusion on the Chapter 19 roster. The roster is renewed annually, and applies