

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Josephine M. Piccone,

Deputy Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

Letter of Agreement Between the Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico, OCS Region and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Concerning the Radiation Safety Inspections of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Activities on Offshore Facilities and Laybarges in Federal Jurisdiction

I. Introduction

This Letter of Agreement (LOA) describes the cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in ensuring the protection of the public health and safety and the environment from the hazards of radioactive materials that may be used on offshore facilities and laybarges in offshore waters under Federal jurisdiction.

II. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this LOA is to identify the areas of cooperation between MMS and the NRC to facilitate NRC inspection of the safe use of radioactive materials on offshore facilities and laybarges. Mutual interests involve the inspection of such sites in order to verify that NRC-licensed activities are conducted safely and in compliance with NRC requirements, and ensure the safety of facility and laybarga personnel during the use of NRC-licensed radioactive material. Radioactive materials within the scope of this LOA mean byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials as defined in Sections 11e., 11z., and 11aa. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), as amended, and the NRC's regulations thereunder. Offshore facilities and laybarges include those that are in offshore waters under Federal jurisdiction. The term "offshore waters" means that area of land and water, beyond Agreement States' Submerged Lands Act jurisdiction, on or above the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

III. Authority and Regulatory Program

A. MMS

The MMS is responsible for managing the mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) of the United States in an environmentally sound and safe manner. In addition, MMS is both the resource manager and fiscal manager for collecting and accounting for OCS revenues and leasing OCS lands, regulating development activities to

protect the coastal and marine environment, and ensuring that when operations are completed, the site is properly abandoned.

B. NRC

Under the AEA, as amended, the NRC is responsible for regulating the use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear material within the United States and its territories, consistent with its mission to ensure adequate protection of the public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

IV. Agency Responsibilities

The following are the offices responsible for this agreement:

For the Minerals Management Service:

Regional Director U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Regional Administrator Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, Texas 76011

Each agency shall designate the agency organizational unit responsible for the coordination and management of activities covered by this LOA. Each agency shall designate the individual(s) who will serve as the respective coordination officer(s) or point(s) of contact (POC). The coordination officers or POCs will coordinate and facilitate actions required by their respective agencies.

NRC will notify known lease and pipeline operators working offshore that NRC, in cooperation with MMS, will be conducting unannounced inspections of NRC licensees performing licensed activities on offshore facilities and laybarges. NRC will comply with the personal safety and site access requirements mandated by each facility or laybarga operator.

NRC will provide MMS staff with licensed material orientation and radiation safety program training as MMS staff and NRC staff schedules will allow. The purpose of this orientation and training is to enable MMS to notify NRC in case MMS recognizes irregularities in licensees' activities. NRC will also provide MMS copies of inspection reports and event reports involving licensees working in offshore Federal waters.

MMS will arrange for transportation to offshore facilities or laybarges on MMS contracted helicopters for NRC inspectors based on availability and advance schedule coordination by NRC.

MMS will provide this service at no financial charge or exchange of services to the NRC.

V. Elements of Coordination

Both agencies agree to exchange information with respect to relevant programs and lessons learned, resources permitting. The purpose of these exchanges is to provide expert technical assistance to both agencies. NRC will coordinate with the MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional office for the scheduled inspection of licensees conducting licensed activities in offshore Federal waters. Additionally, NRC will coordinate the scheduling of offshore inspections with MMS based on guidance provided by MMS relative to seat availability on MMS contracted helicopters.

VI. Other Laws and Matters

Nothing in this LOA shall be deemed to restrict, modify, or otherwise limit the application or enforcement of any laws of the United States with respect to matters specified herein, nor shall anything in the LOA be construed as modifying the existing authority of either agency.

VII. Effective Date, Modification, and Termination of LOA

This LOA will take effect when it has been signed and dated by the authorized representatives of the MMS and the NRC. It may be modified by mutual written consent, or terminated by either agency upon 60 days advance written notice to the other agency.

Approved and Accepted for the Minerals Management Service

Chris Oynes,

Regional Director, U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

January 7, 2000.

Approved and Accepted for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ellis W. Merschoff,

Regional Administrator, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

December 23, 1999.

[FR Doc. 00-5150 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Draft FY 2000-2005 Strategic Plan

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking public

comment on its draft FY 2000–2005 Strategic Plan which provides a blueprint for the NRC to plan, implement, and monitor work needed to achieve its goals. The Commission will consider public comments in approving the final FY 2000–2005 Strategic Plan.

DATE: Submit comments on the draft strategic plan by April 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Mail Stop: T6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

The draft Strategic Plan, as well as the ability to provide comments electronically, are available on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/planning.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daryl Kade, Mail Stop: T9D24, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Telephone: (301) 415–7326; FAX: (301) 415–5386; Internet: DWK@NRC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NRC issued its first Strategic Plan in September 1997, and is required to update it every three years. The NRC's draft FY 2000–2005 Strategic Plan, which has not yet been approved by the Commission, describes the agency's strategic goals, performance goals, and strategies for achieving NRC's mission. It is organized into four strategic arenas: (1) Nuclear Reactor Safety; (2) Nuclear Materials Safety; (3) Nuclear Waste Safety; and (4) International Nuclear Safety Support. To help accomplish agency goals, the NRC has established overarching corporate management strategies which are also described in the draft plan. A summary is provided in Part 1 with more details, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act, provided in Part 2.

Embodied in the plan is the NRC's understanding that decisions must be based first and foremost on their contributions to public health and safety. In addition, the NRC must also consider the effect of its decisions on the public it protects, on the industries it regulates, and on the effectiveness and efficiency of internal NRC operations.

The current plan is based more on performance and the outcomes the NRC intends to achieve. It addresses concerns and comments raised in Congressional hearings, as well as in meetings with members of the public and stakeholders who would be most affected by NRC decisions. Also, the plan captures recent regulatory reform and their outcomes in the long term.

Stakeholder Input to the Strategic Plan

NRC recognizes that work on the Strategic Plan is unfinished and that stakeholder input will further improve the draft plan. Stakeholder input is requested on the draft plan, particularly on the following areas:

- Do goals address appropriate areas?
- Are the strategies to achieve the goals adequate?
- Will performance measures indicate whether we are achieving our goals? In particular, we are seeking comment on those measures where specific metrics have yet to be proposed.
- Do goals and strategies reflect NRC's commitment to institutionalize change?
- Do external factors identify those conditions or circumstances which significantly affect the achievement of our goals?
- Is the strategic plan too lengthy? Is the level of detail sufficient?

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of February, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jesse L. Funches,
Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–5153 Filed 3–2–00; 8:45 am]

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PEACE CORPS

Information Collection Requests Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Peace Corps.

ACTION: Notice of public use form review request to the Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMARY: The Associate Director for Management invites comments on information collection requests as required pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). This notice announces that the Peace Corps has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget an emergency request to approve the use of the Peace Corps/Crisis Corps Volunteer Application Form (0420–0533) by May 2, 2000. Additionally, the Peace Corps will be seeking three year OMB approval using the standard review procedures. A copy of the information collection may be obtained from Joan Timoney, Director of the Crisis Corps, Peace Corps, 1111 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20526. Ms. Timoney may be contacted by telephone at 202–692–2250. The Peace Corps invites comments on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the Peace Corps, including whether

the information will have practical use; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and, ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques, when appropriate, and other forms of information technology. Comments on these forms should be addressed to Desk Officer for the Peace Corps, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

Michael J. Kole,

Director of Administrative Services.

[FR Doc. 00–4546 Filed 3–2–00; 8:45 am]

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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: Voluntary Customer Surveys in Accordance with Executive Order 12862, OMB 3220–0192. In accordance with Executive Order 12862, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) conducts a number of customer surveys designed to determine the kinds and quality of services our beneficiaries, claimants, employers and members of the public want and expect, as well as their satisfaction with existing RRB services. The information collected is used by RRB management to monitor customer satisfaction by determining to what extent services are satisfactory and