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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Parts 50 and 70

Criticality Accident Requirements; Public Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has initiated a rulemaking to provide light-water nuclear power reactor licensees with greater flexibility in meeting the requirement that licensees authorized to possess more than a small amount of special nuclear material (SNM), maintain a criticality monitoring system in each area where the material is handled, used, or stored. This action is taken as a result of the experience gained in processing and evaluating a number of exemption requests from power reactor licensees and NRC's safety assessments in response to these requests that concluded that the likelihood of criticality was negligible.

On December 3, 1997 (62 FR 63825), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published in the **Federal Register** a direct final rule amending its regulations that would have provided persons licensed to construct or operate light-water nuclear power reactors with the option of either meeting the criticality accident requirements of paragraph (a) of 10 CFR 70.24 in handling and storage areas for SNM, or electing to comply with requirements that would be incorporated into 10 CFR part 50 at § 50.68. The direct final rule would have become effective on February 17, 1998. Significant adverse comments were received from the public, resulting in the staff withdrawing the rule. In an attempt to better understand the focus of the public comments, the staff is conducting a public meeting.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the NRC Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, in room O–10B–11, starting at 1:00 pm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations to provide persons licensed to construct or operate light-water nuclear power reactors with the option of either meeting the criticality accident requirements of paragraph (a) of 10 CFR 70.24 in handling and storage areas for SNM, or electing to comply with certain requirements that would be incorporated into 10 CFR part 50. These are generally the requirements that the NRC has used to grant specific exemptions to the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24. In addition, the NRC is proposing to revise the current text of the section relating to seeking specific exemptions from regulations in 10 CFR 70.24(d) which provided that a licensee could seek an exemption to all or part of 10 CFR 70.24 for good cause because it is redundant to 10 CFR 70.14(a). A new section, 10 CFR 70.24 (d) may be added to clarify that the requirements in paragraph (a) through (c) of 10 CFR 70.24 do not apply to holders of a construction permit or operating license for a nuclear power reactor issued pursuant to 10 CFR part 50, or combined licenses issued under 10 CFR part 52, if the holders comply with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.68 (b). It is proposed that exemptions acquired under 10 CFR 70.24 after the issuance of the operating license will still be valid if the option selected is 10 CFR 70.24 or if the 10 CFR 70.24 exemptions were explicitly renewed when the 10 CFR part 50 operating license was issued.

The meeting will be open to the public, on a space available basis. The agenda for the workshop will focus on a discussion of the public comments received and the above regulatory issues. Members of the public who are unable to attend the workshop can obtain copies of the papers developed by the staff through NRC's Public Document Room (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attention: NRC Public Document Room, Washington, DC 20555–0001) or on the Internet via NRC's Technical Conference Forum (http://techconf.llnl.gov/noframe.html).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 21st day of May, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas H. Essig,

Acting Chief, Generic Issues and Environmental Projects Branch, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–14099 Filed 5–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket No. EE–RM/STD–98–440]

RIN 1904–AA77

Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Notice of Public Workshop on Central Air Conditioner Energy Efficiency Standards Rulemaking

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Public Workshop.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (the Department or DOE) today gives notice that it will convene a public workshop to discuss the proposed analytical framework and tools for evaluating possible revisions to the central air conditioner and heat pump energy efficiency standards.

DATES: The public workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EE–43, Room 1E–245, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121.

Written comments are welcome, especially following the workshop. Please submit 10 copies (no faxes) and a computer diskette (WordPerfect 6.1) to: Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Notice of Public Workshop on Central Air Conditioner Energy Efficiency Standards Rulemaking, Docket No. EE–RM/STD–98–440, EE–43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 586–2945.

Copies of the transcript of the public workshop, public comments received, and this notice may be read at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. DOE, Forrestal Building, Room 1E–190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586–3142, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Pollock , U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE–43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121, (202) 586–5778.

Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Mail Station EE–43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121, (202) 586–2945.

Eugene Margolis, Esq., U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, Mail Station GC–72, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0103, (202) 586–9526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In continuing the work on possible revisions to energy efficiency standards on central air conditioners, the Department is convening a workshop to present and receive public comments on the proposed analytical approach for evaluating the central air conditioner standards. At this workshop the following will be discussed:

Review of the Rulemaking Framework: The Department will seek comment on the draft analytical framework for the central air conditioner rulemaking. Copies of the draft framework document will be available beginning the week of May 25, 1998, on the Office of Codes and Standards web site. The web site address is as follows: http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/codes__standards/index.htm.

Identification of Analytical Methods and Tools: The Department seeks input into the selection of engineering and economic analytical tools to be used during the rulemaking:

Engineering Analysis/Data Collection: The Department plans to collect data for the engineering analysis using one or more of the following methods: the energy efficiency approach to derive a cost efficiency curve within a range, the design option approach, and the market price (or reverse engineering) approach. The Department will review the key issues surrounding: (1) The pros and cons of each approach, and (2) data collection and the reporting of costs for incorporation into the engineering analysis.

Price of Air Conditioners: The Department will lead a discussion on possible approaches to generating retail prices to be used in the consumer life-cycle-cost analysis.

Life-Cycle-Cost: The Department plans to demonstrate a new life-cycle-cost spreadsheet model which can account for variability of key criteria, such as utility rates and climate.

Electricity Price: The Department will lead a discussion on possible approaches for accounting for variations in electricity price, and the effects of these variations on different consumers.

Refrigerant: The refrigerant used in air conditioners will be banned by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2010. The Department will lead a discussion on the effects of this ban on the timing of the revision to central air conditioner standards.

Energy Savings Forecasts: The Department will present an example of energy savings forecasting results using a simple spreadsheet to show how the growth in efficiency can be accounted for over time.

Background on the approach to be followed in evaluating central air conditioner standards is found in Section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended, and appendix A of subpart C of 10 CFR part 430, 61 FR 36974 (July 15, 1996). Appendix A outlines the planning and prioritization process, data collection and analysis, and decision making criteria. Previously published information pertaining to this rulemaking includes the following: An Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Energy Conservation Standards for Three Types of Consumer Products, published on September 8, 1993 (58 FR 47326), and comments thereon. Copies may be read at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room.

Please notify Brenda Edwards-Jones or Edward Pollock at the above listed address if you intend to attend the workshop, if you wish to receive material prepared for the workshop (including the draft analytical framework), or if you wish to be added to the DOE mailing list for receipt of future notices and information concerning central air conditioner matters relating to energy efficiency.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 22, 1998.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 98–14258 Filed 5–28–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

[Notice 1998—10]

11 CFR Part 114

Qualified Nonprofit Corporations

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Disposition of Petition for Rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Commission announces its disposition of a Petition for Rulemaking filed on November 17, 1997 by James Bopp, Jr., on behalf of the James Madison Center for Free Speech. The petition urges the Commission to revise its regulations regarding qualified nonprofit corporations to conform them to a decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. The Commission has decided not to initiate a rulemaking in response to this petition.

DATES: May 21, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Paul Sanford, Staff Attorney, 999 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20463, (202) 694–1650 or (800) 424–9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 17, 1997, the Commission received a Petition for Rulemaking from the James Madison Center for Free Speech requesting that the Commission institute a rulemaking proceeding to conform its regulations at 11 CFR 114.10 to the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in *Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life* v. *Federal Election Commission,* 113 F.3d 129 (8th Cir. 1997) [''*Minnesota*'']. In that decision, the court of appeals held that section 114.10 is unconstitutional because it infringes upon the First Amendment rights of certain nonprofit corporations. The petition urges the Commission to revise its regulations in accordance with this decision. For the reasons set out below, the Commission has decided not to revise its regulations, and is therefore denying the petition.

Section 441b of the Federal Election Campaign Act, 2 U.S.C. 431 *et seq.* [''FECA'' or ''the Act''], broadly prohibits corporations from making independent expenditures. However,