

Dated: July 28, 1998.

**Sam Duraiswamy,**

*Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch.*

[FR Doc. 98-20599 Filed 7-31-98; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Draft NUREG Report; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment Draft NUREG-1521 titled "Technical Review of Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Methods for Nuclear Power Plant Fire Protection Analyses."

As part of the staff's efforts to focus licensee and NRC resources on risk-significant activities, and to decrease the prescriptiveness of its regulations through performance-based methods that allow licensees increased flexibility in implementing NRC regulations, the staff has conducted a technical review to identify opportunities in the fire protection area. Draft NUREG-1521 presents a technical review and analysis of risk-informed, performance-based methods that are alternatives to those in current prescriptive fire protection requirements or guidance that could allow cost-effective methods for implementing safety objectives, focusing licensee efforts, and achieving greater efficiency in the use of resources for plant safety. A technical analysis of the usefulness of the results and insights derived from these methods (including accounting for the uncertainties in the results) in improving regulatory decision making is presented.

Public comments are being solicited on Draft NUREG-1521. Comments may be accompanied by additional relevant information or supporting data. The staff specifically requests comments on (1) whether information on any other technical methods and models for risk-informed, performance applications not covered in the report exist and should be reviewed and included, and (2) risk-informed, performance-based applications beyond those discussed in the report that would provide regulatory focus on risk significant issues, and flexibility to licensees in implementing NRC safety objectives.

A free single copy of Draft NUREG-1521 may be requested by written request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Distribution and

Mail Services Section, Office of Administration, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hand deliver comments on draft NUREG-1521 to 11545 Rockville Pike, Maryland between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m on Federal Workdays. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Comments will be most helpful if received by November 30, 1998. This document is also available at the NRC Web Site, <http://www.nrc.gov>. See the link under "Technical Reports in the NUREG Series" on the "Reference Library" page. You may also provide comments at this NRC Web Site. Instructions for sending comments electronically are included with the document, NUREG-1521, at the web site.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of July 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Thomas L. King,**

*Director, Division of Systems Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*

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## OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

### Budget Rescissions and Deferrals

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one proposed rescission of budgetary resources, totaling \$5.2 million.

The proposed rescission affects programs of the Department of the Interior.

**William J. Clinton**

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 24, 1998.

### Rescission Proposal No. R98-25

#### PROPOSED RESCISSION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY

Report Pursuant to Section 1012 of P.L. 93-344

Agency: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau: Bureau of Land Management  
Account: Mineral leasing and associated payments

New budget authority: \$5,200,000

Other budgetary resources:—

Total budgetary resources: 5,200,000

Amount proposed for rescission:  
5,200,000

Proposed appropriations language:

*The budget authority provided by section 503 of Public Law 105-83 is hereby rescinded.*

*Justification:* The proposal would rescind \$5,200 thousand for a conveyance to the State of Montana of Federal mineral rights. This amount was canceled under the Line Item Veto Act, which the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional on June 25, 1998.

In connection with the Crown Butte/ New World Mine acquisition (addressed in section 502 of P. L. 105-83), section 503 provides for the uncompensated conveyance to the State of Montana of either \$10 million in Federal mineral rights in Montana or the Federal mineral rights in Otter Creek Tracts 1, 2, and 3 (in Montana).

Section 503 would cause Federal taxpayers to lose their share of royalties from Federally-owned lands, which would normally be split between the State where the Federally-owned lands are located and the U.S. Treasury upon development of Federal mineral rights. The Federal share would be \$5.2 million. The section would set a costly, unnecessary precedent by requiring the Federal Government to "compensate" a State for a purchase or exchange of lands between the Federal Government and a willing seller. This precedent could, therefore, discourage innovative, cost-effective land protection solutions in the future.

This proposed rescission applies to the budget authority under each of the alternative conveyances under sections 503(a)(1) and 503(a)(2).

This action is taken pursuant to the Antideficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1512).

*Estimated programmatic effect:* As a result of the proposed rescission, net Federal outlays will decrease, as specified below.

(Note: The amount of the effect depends on whether mineral rights would have been conveyed under section 503(a)(1) or under section 503(a)(2). As discussed below, the Administration estimates that mineral rights would more likely have been conveyed under section 503(a)(1).) This will have a commensurate effect on the Federal budget deficit.