

Dated: April 12, 1999.

Richard P. Savio,

*Associate Director for Technical Support,
ACRS/ACNW.*

[FR Doc. 99-9751 Filed 4-16-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Correction to Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Consideration

On April 7, 1999 (64 FR 17021), the **Federal Register** published the Biweekly Notice of Applications and Amendments to Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Consideration. On page 17022, the paragraph starting "By April 23, 1999, the licensee may file", should read "By May 7, 1999, the licensee may file".

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of April 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

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

[FR Doc. 99-9745 Filed 4-16-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Comment on Recommended Improvements to the Oversight Processes for Nuclear Power Reactors

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory
Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing significant revisions to its processes for overseeing the safety performance of commercial nuclear power plants that include integrating the inspection, assessment, and enforcement processes. As part of its proposal, the NRC staff established a new regulatory oversight framework with a set of performance indicators and associated thresholds, developed a new baseline inspection program that supplements and verifies the performance indicators, and created a continuous assessment process that includes a method for consistently determining the appropriate regulatory actions in response to varying levels of safety performance. The changes are the result of continuing work on a concept as described in SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Improvements (Follow-Up to SECY-99-

007)" dated March 22, 1999. The NRC is soliciting comments from interested public interest groups, the regulated industry, States, and concerned citizens. The NRC staff will consider comments it receives in developing the procedures for implementing the new processes.

DATES: The comment period expires May 14, 1999. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: T-6 D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hand deliver comments to: 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

Copies of SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements (Follow-Up to SECY-99-007)" and its attachments may be obtained from the NRC's Public Document Room at 2120 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20003-1527, telephone 202-634-3273. Copies also may be obtained from the NRC's Internet web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html#1999>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Madison, Mail Stop: O-5 H4, Inspection Program Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone 301-415-1490.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In September 1997, the NRC began an integrated review of the processes used for assessing safety performance by commercial nuclear power plant licensees. The NRC staff presented to the Commission a conceptual design for a new integrated assessment process in Commission paper SECY-98-045, dated March 9, 1998.

In parallel with the staff's work on the IRAP and the development of other assessment tools, the nuclear power industry independently developed a proposal for a new assessment and regulatory oversight process. This proposal, developed by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), took a risk-informed and performance-based approach to the inspection, assessment,

and enforcement of licensee activities on the basis of the results of a set of performance indicators.

The staff set out to develop a single set of recommendations for making improvements to the regulatory oversight processes in response to NEI's proposal, the Commission's comments on the IRAP proposal, and comments made at a Commission meeting on July 17, 1998, with public and industry stakeholders and the hearing before the Senate on July 31, 1998. The IRAP public comment period, a four day public workshop, and a series of public meetings were used to facilitate internal and external input into the development of these recommendations.

Following the public workshop, the NRC staff formed three task groups to complete the work begun at the workshop and to develop the recommendations for the integrated oversight processes: a technical framework task group, an inspection task group, and an assessment process task group. The technical framework task group was responsible for completing the assessment framework and for identifying the performance indicators (PIs) and appropriate thresholds that could be used to measure safety performance. The inspection task group was responsible for developing the scope, the depth, and the frequency of a risk-informed baseline inspection program that would be used to supplement and verify the PIs. The assessment process task group developed methods for integrating PI data and inspection data, determining NRC action on the basis of assessment results, and communicating results to licensees and the public. Other staff activities to improve the enforcement process were coordinated with these three task groups to ensure that changes to the enforcement process were properly evaluated in the framework structure and that changes to the inspection and assessment programs were integrated with the changes to the enforcement program.

The task groups completed their work between October and December 1998, and developed recommendations to be presented to the Commission. On January 20, 1999, the staff briefed the Commission on the staff's proposal as described in SECY-99-007, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Improvements." Following the January Commission briefing, the staff analyzed the results of public comments on SECY-99-007, completed remaining concept development, and began development of detailed implementing procedures. Additional information and noteworthy changes are

a result of these activities was forwarded to the Commission in SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements (Follow-Up to SECY-99-007)," to support final Commission approval of the proposed reactor oversight process. The staff briefed the Commission on SECY-99-007A and its attachments on March 26, 1999.

Scope of the Public Comment Period

The follow-up recommendations for an integrated oversight process are presented in SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements (Follow-Up to SECY-99-007)," dated March 22, 1999, and its attachments. This paper includes further development of the Significance Determination Process (SDP) and the revised Enforcement policy.

A separate **Federal Register** notice will be issued to solicit public comment on the proposed enforcement policy. However, respondents are welcome to address any portion of the enforcement policy in this notice. This public comment period will focus on obtaining industry and public views on how the NRC should implement the processes for overseeing and assessing licensee safety performance as refined in SECY-99-007A and discussed in the Commission meeting on March 26, 1999.

The NRC seeks public comment and feedback on the topics discussed in the SECY and its attachments. Respondents are not limited to and are not obligated to provide comments on each attachment. In providing comments, please key your response to the applicable attachment and be as specific as possible. The use of examples is encouraged.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of April 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michael R. Johnson,

*Acting Chief, Inspection Program Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-9744 Filed 4-16-99; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIMES AND DATES: 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 3, 1999; 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 4, 1999.

PLACE: Garden City, Long Island, New York, at the Garden City Hotel, 45 Seventh Street, in the Society A-C Rooms.

STATUS: May 3 (Closed); May 4 (Open).

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Monday, May 3—10:00 a.m. (Closed).

1. Postal Rate Commission Opinion and Recommended Decision in Docket No. MC99-1, Nonletter-Size Business Reply Mail Experiment.

2. Filing with the Postal Rate Commission for Bulk Parcel Return Service (BPRS).

3. Financial Performance Indicators.

4. Midyear Budget Review.

5. Office of the Inspector General Budget Review.

6. Personnel Matters.

Tuesday, May 4—8:30 a.m. (Open).

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, March 29-30, 1999.

2. Remarks of the Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer.

3. Consideration of Semiannual Report to Congress on Summary of Investigative Activities [Actions Under 39 U.S.C. 3005 and 3007].

4. Capital Investments.

a. Remote Computer Reader 2000.

b. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, P&DC—Advance Site Acquisition.

5. Quarterly Report on Service Performance.

6. Quarterly Report on Financial Results.

7. Report on the New York Metro Area and Long Island Performance Cluster.

8. Tentative Agenda for the June 7-8, 1999, meeting in Washington, D.C.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Thomas J. Koerber, Secretary of the Board, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20260-1000. Telephone (202) 268-4800.

Thomas J. Koerber,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-9849 Filed 4-15-99; 12:23 pm]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3165]

Louisiana; and Contiguous Counties in Arkansas

Bossier Parish and the contiguous Parishes of Bienville, Caddo, Red River, and Webster in the State of Louisiana, and Lafayette and Miller Counties in the State of Arkansas constitute a disaster area as a result of damages caused by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding which occurred on April 3, 1999.

Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on June 7, 1999 and for economic injury until the close of business on Jan. 7, 2000 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 3 Office, 4400 Amon Carter Blvd., Suite 102, Ft. Worth, TX 76155
The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
HOMEOWNERS WITH CREDIT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE	6.375
HOMEOWNERS WITHOUT CREDIT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE	3.188
BUSINESSES WITH CREDIT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE ...	8.000
BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT CREDIT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE	4.000
OTHERS (INCLUDING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS) WITH CREDIT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE	7.000
For Economic Injury:	
BUSINESSES AND SMALL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES WITHOUT CREDIT AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE ...	4.000

The numbers assigned to this disaster for physical damage are 316511 for Louisiana and 316611 for Arkansas. For economic injury the numbers are 9C1600 for Louisiana and 9C1700 for Arkansas.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: April 7, 1999.

Aida Alvarez,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-9654 Filed 4-16-99; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I, Pittsburgh District Office, Pittsburgh, PA; Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration, Pittsburgh District Office, Advisory Council will hold a public meeting from 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 22, 1999, at the U.S. Small Business Administration District Office, Federal Building—Room 1128, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4004. The meeting will be held in the conference room, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present. One of the key items on the agenda is: Seeking a tax credit in the state of PA for the loan guaranty fees that borrowers must pay.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Write or call, Carrie A. Herron, (412) 395-6560, U.S. Small Business