

date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

1. By hand delivery to: Docketing and Service Branch, Office of the Secretary, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Federal workdays; or

2. By mail or telegram to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in 10 CFR 2.1205(g);
3. The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and
4. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with 10 CFR 2.1205(c).

Each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail to:

1. The applicant, The Dow Chemical Company, Attention: Mr. Larry Giebelhaus, Project Manager, 1261 Building, Midland, MI 48667; and
2. NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of July, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**John W. N. Hickey,**

*Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 97-17991 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-289]

### GPU Nuclear Corporation; Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, Appendix R to GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1), located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, Appendix R to the extent that it requires the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in certain fire areas. The licensee is seeking an exemption from Appendix R, Section III.2.G.c, which requires the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in fire areas where redundant circuits required for safe shutdown are separated by fire barriers having a 1-hour rating and have fire detectors installed. The licensee requested exemptions for the following fire areas/zones: CB-FA-2b, CB-FA-2c, CB-FA-2d, CB-FA-2e, CB-FA-2f, CB-FA-2g, CB-FA-3a, CB-FA-3b, and FH-FZ-5.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated August 16, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated August 28, 1996, and January 3, 1997.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

Installation of automatic fire suppression systems in the affected fire areas is not a viable alternative. The affected fire areas contain high voltage plant electrical equipment where automatic water suppression systems are not desirable. Halon gas suppression systems are no longer a viable option due to the environmental concerns. The affected fire areas and adjoining spaces are frequently occupied by plant personnel, therefore carbon dioxide suppression systems are not desirable due to the personnel hazard. Modification of the fire barrier envelopes within the affected fire areas to achieve a 3-hour rating, and therefore eliminating the need for fire suppression systems, would represent a substantial cost hardship.

### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

In lieu of an automatic sprinkler system, the licensee will install an area-wide automatic detection system in the affected fire areas and will establish that all the fire barrier envelopes within the affected fire areas have a minimum 1-hour fire endurance rating. Manual firefighting equipment is available either inside, or in close proximity to, all of the affected fire areas. Fire brigade response to these fire areas is expected to be rapid. Also, administrative controls limit the amount of combustibles in the affected fire areas.

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and has concluded that the degree of fire protection afforded by the area-wide detectors, the minimum 1-hour rated fire barriers, the close proximity and rapid response of firefighting equipment, and certain administrative controls provide reasonable assurance that the ability to perform safe shutdown functions in the event of a fire will be maintained. This evaluation is applicable to the following fire areas identified in the licensee's submittal: CB-FA-2b, CB-FA-2c, CB-FA-2d, CB-FA-2e, CB-FA-2f, CB-FA-2g, CB-FA-3a, and CB-FA-3b.

Granting an exemption from the regulation for these fire areas will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

##### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the exemption, the Commission considered denial of the proposed action, thus requiring the licensee to upgrade the existing fire barrier envelopes to a 3-hour rating, or install automatic fire suppression systems. For fire areas CB-FA-2b, CB-FA-2c, CB-FA-2d, CB-FA-2e, CB-FA-2f, CB-FA-2g, CB-FA-3a, and CB-FA-



3b, the Commission concluded denial would result in no change in current environmental impacts.

For fire zone FH-FZ-5, the Commission concluded that, due to the high combustible loading associated with this fire zone, upgrading to a 3-hour fire barrier would have a measurable benefit. Denial of the proposed action with respect to fire zone FH-FZ-5 would result in no change to 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 TMI-1.

#### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 6, 1997, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. S. Maingi of the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiation Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon 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 August 16, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated August 28, 1996, and January 3, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Law/Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenues, Harrisburg, PA.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of July 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Patrick D. Milano,**

*Acting Director, Project Directorate I-3, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-18075 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## **RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

### **Agency Forms Submitted for OMB Review**

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has submitted the following proposal(s) for the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for review and approval.

#### **Summary of Proposal(s)**

- (1) *Collection title:* Vocational Report.
- (2) *Form(s) submitted:* G-251.
- (3) *OMB Number:* 3220-0141.
- (4) *Expiration date of current OMB clearance:* 08/31/1997.
- (5) *Type of request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.
- (6) *Respondents:* Individuals or households.
- (7) *Estimated annual number of respondents:* 6,000.
- (8) *Total annual responses:* 6,000.
- (9) *Total annual reporting hours:* 3,045.
- (10) *Collection description:* Section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act provides for the payment of disability annuities to qualified employees and widow(ers). The collections obtains the information needed to determine their ability to work.

#### **Additional Information or Comments**

Copies of the forms and supporting documents can be obtained from Chuck Mierzwa, the agency clearance officer (312-751-3363). Comments regarding the information collection should be addressed to Ronald J. Hodapp, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092 and the OMB reviewer, Laura Oliven (202-395-7316), Office of Management and Budget, Room 10230, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

**Chuck Mierzwa,**

*Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-18089 Filed 7-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

## **RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

### **Notice of Public Meeting; Sunshine Act Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Railroad Retirement Board will hold a meeting on July 16, 1997, 9:00 a.m., at the Board's meeting room on the 8th floor of its headquarters building, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. The agenda for this meeting follows:

### **Portion Open to the Public**

- (1) Field Office Closure—Washington, DC Office
- (2) Phase 2 Restructuring Plan for Office of Programs' Operations
- (3) Harvard Medical School Study of Diseases in Certain Railroad Occupations
- (4) Draft Response to April 23, 1997, Letter From Congress, Bob Wise on Behalf of Ronda Fortner re Early Retirement/Buyout Offer
- (5) Request to Post Chief Information Officer Position
- (6) Bureau of Information Services Reorganization—Phase 2
- (7) Fiscal Year 1997 Third Quarter Review
- (8) Performance Awards for Fiscal Year 1996
- (9) Senior Executive Recertification Process
- (10) Disability Workloads
- (11) *Regulations:*
  - A. Part 220 (Subpart C, Occupational Disability)
  - B. Part 230 (Reduction and Non-Payment of Annuities by Reason of Work)
  - C. Part 255 (Recovery of Overpayments—Final Rule)
  - D. Part 261 (Final Rule—Administrative Finality)
  - E. Part 295 (Payments Pursuant to Court Decree or Court-Approved Property Settlement)
- (12) Year 2000 Issues
- (13) Labor Member Truth-in-Budgeting Status Report

### **Portion Closed to the Public**

- (A) Request for Waiver of Excess Annual Leave Credits (Charles A. Flanagan, Jr.)
- (B) Request for Waiver of Debt Arising From Annual Leave Deficit (William H. Tebbe)
- (C) Reorganization—Administration Group
- (D) *Pending Board Appeals:*
  1. Maurice McAfee
  2. John Machado, Jr.
  3. Michael A. Roberts
  4. Jerry D. Ruckel
  5. Ruth S. Schlegel
  6. Charlotte R. Shaw

The person to contact for more information is Beatrice Ezerski, Secretary to the Board. Phone No. 312-751-4920.

Dated: July 7, 1997.

**Beatrice Ezerski,**

*Secretary to the Board.*

[FR Doc. 97-18201 Filed 7-8-97; 8:45 am]

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