staff has reviewed the application and determined that storing B&W 15x15 fuel with BPRAs in the VSC–24 would have minimal impact on the design basis and would not be inimical to public health and safety.

*Need for the Proposed Action:* ANO has lost full core offload reserves in the Unit 1 spent fuel pool. ANO Unit 1 is scheduled for a refueling outage in September 1999. Because the 10 CFR Part 72 rulemaking to amend the COC will not be completed prior to the date that ANO needs to begin loading the VSC–24s with fuel containing BPRAs, the staff requested Commission approval to grant this exemption based on the staff's technical review of information submitted by ANO and SNC.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:* The potential environmental impact of using the VSC–24 system was initially presented in the EA for the Final Rule to add the VSC–24 to the list of approved spent fuel storage casks in 10 CFR 72.214 (58 FR 17948 (1993)). Furthermore, each general licensee must assess the environmental impacts of the specific ISFSI in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 72.212(b)(2)(iii). This section requires the general licensee to perform written evaluations to demonstrate compliance with the environmental requirements of 10 CFR 72.104, ''Criteria for radioactive materials in effluents and direct radiation from an ISFSI or MRS [Monitored Retrievable Storage Installation].''

VSC–24s are designed to mitigate the effects of design basis accidents that could occur during storage. Design basis accidents account for human-induced events and the most severe natural phenomena reported for the site and surrounding area. Postulated accidents analyzed for an ISFSI include tornado winds and tornado generated missiles, design basis earthquake, design basis flood, accidental cask drop, lightning effects, fire, explosions, and other incidents.

Special cask design features include a double-closure welded steel multi-assembly sealed basket (MSB) made from SA–516 Gr 70 pressure vessel steel to contain the spent fuel. This MSB is up to 181-inches long, 62.5 inches in diameter, with 1.0-inch thick walls. The MSB is placed inside of a Ventilated Concrete Cask (VCC) and positioned for storage on the concrete ISFSI pad. The VCC is up to 213-inches long, 132 inches in diameter, and 31.75-inches thick. The VCC wall consists of a 1.75-inch thick steel inner liner surrounded by reinforced concrete and steel ducts for a passive ventilation system.

Considering the specific design requirements for each accident condition, the design of the cask would prevent loss of containment, shielding, and criticality control. Without the loss of either containment, shielding, or criticality control, the risk to public health and safety is not compromised.

Storage of B&W 15x15 fuel containing BPRAs would increase the maximum potential cask dose rates by no more than 13 percent at any location on a loaded VSC–24 system. For a VSC–24 loaded with fuel containing BPRAs, the highest dose would be found at the top center of the cask. This dose was calculated to increase from 30 mrem/hr without BPRAs to 32.2 mrem/hr with BPRAs. The occupational exposure is not significantly increased and off-site dose rates remain well within the 10 CFR Part 20 limits. Therefore, the proposed action now under consideration would not change the potential environmental effects assessed in the initial rulemaking (58 FR 17948).

Therefore, the staff has determined that there is no reduction in the safety margin nor significant environmental impacts as a result of storing B&W 15x15 fuel with BPRAs in the VSC–24 system.

*Alternative to the Proposed Action:* The staff evaluated other alternatives involving removal of the BPRAs from the fuel assemblies and found that these alternatives produced a greater occupational exposure and an increased environmental impact as a result of handling the BPRAs separately as low-level waste. The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny approval of the exemption and, therefore, require ANO to disassemble and store the BPRAs as low-level waste in separate containers.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted:* On February 17, 1999, Bernard Bevill from the Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management, Arkansas Department of Health, was contacted about the EA for the proposed action and had no concerns.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51. Based upon the foregoing EA, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2) and 72.214 so that ANO may store B&W 15x15 fuel containing BPRAs in VSC–24s will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this exemption request, see the Entergy exemption request dated January 18, 1999, which is docketed under 10 CFR Part 72, Docket No 72–13. The exemption request is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20555 and the Local Public Document Room located at Tomlinson Library, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, AR, 72801.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of March 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**E. William Brach,**

*Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 99–6769 Filed 3–18–99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**[NUREG–1701]**

## Standard Review Plan for the Review of License Applications for the Advanced Vapor Laser Isotope System (AVLIS) Facility; Notice of Availability

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued draft NUREG–1701 entitled ''Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for the Advanced Vapor Laser Isotope System (AVLIS) Facility'' for review and comment.

**DATES:** Submit comments by June 17, 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:** Mail written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Hand deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays.

Draft NUREG–1701 is available for inspection and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

A free single copy of draft NUREG–1701, to the extent of supply, may be requested by writing to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Distribution

Services, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Draft NUREG–1701 is available on the World Wide Web at http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/indexnum.html. Comments may be submitted by selecting the ''comments'' link on the main page for the draft NUREG.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information regarding draft NUREG–1701 contact Amy Bryce, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415–5848.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NRC anticipates reviewing a license application for an AVLIS facility under 10 CFR Part 70, Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material. The NRC is currently considering revisions to 10 CFR Part 70 and the associated standard review plan (SRP), draft NUREG–1520, ''Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility,'' (see http://techconf.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/topics). To provide facility specific guidance for the review of a license application for an AVLIS facility, the NRC simultaneously developed NUREG–1701, ''Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for the Advanced Vapor Laser Isotope System (AVLIS) Facility.'' To the extent appropriate, draft NUREG–1701 will be revised to reflect NRC program changes to 10 CFR Part 70 and the accompanying SRP.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of March 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Josephine Piccone,**

*Acting Deputy Director Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS.*

[FR Doc. 99–6767 Filed 3–18–99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**[NUREG–1702]**

### Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for the Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization Project; Notice of Availability

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a draft NUREG–1702 entitled ''Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for the Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization (TWRS–P) Project'' for review and comment.

**DATES:** Submit comments by June 17, 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:** Mail written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Hand deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 am and 4:15 pm during Federal workdays.

Draft NUREG–1702 is available for inspection and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

A free single copy of draft NUREG–1702, to the extent of supply, may be requested by writing to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Distribution Services, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Draft NUREG–1702 is available on the World Wide Web at *http:/www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/indexnum.html.* Comments may be submitted by selecting the ''comments'' link on the main page for the draft NUREG.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding draft NUREG–1702 contact Michael Tokar, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415–7251.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NRC anticipates reviewing a license application for a TWRS–P facility under 10 CFR Part 70, Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material. The NRC is currently considering revisions to 10 CFR Part 70 and the associated standard review plan (SRP), draft NUREG–1520, ''Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility,'' (see *http://techconf.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/topics).* To provide facility specific guidance for the review of a license application for a TWRS–P facility, the NRC simultaneously developed NUREG–1702, ''Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for the Tank Waste Remediation System Privatization (TWRS–P) Project.'' To the extent appropriate, draft NUREG–1702 will be revised to reflect NRC program changes to 10 CFR Part 70 and the accompanying SRP.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of March 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Josephine Piccone,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS.*

[FR Doc. 99–6770 Filed 3–18–99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–U**

## POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

**[Docket Nos. MC99–1 and MC99–2; Order No. 1233]**

### Mail Classification Proceedings; (Authority: 39 U.S.C. 3623)

**AGENCY:** Postal Rate Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of new cases affecting nonletter-sized business reply mail.

**DATES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for dates.

**ADDRESSES:** Send communications concerning this notice to the attention of Margaret P. Crenshaw, Secretary of the Commission, 1333 H Street NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 1333 H Street NW., Washington, DC 20268–0001, 202–789–6820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 10, 1999, the Postal Service filed concurrent requests with the Commission for recommended decisions on proposed changes in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS). Both requests were filed pursuant to § 3623 of the Postal Reorganization Act, 39 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*

The proposed changes affect certain nonletter-sized Business Reply Mail (BRM). They grow out of an ongoing, two-year experiment authorizing two alternatives to the traditional manual method of accounting for this type of mail. These alternatives are referred to as the ''weight averaging'' method and the ''reverse manifest'' method. The experiment was authorized as a result of Docket No. MC97–1. It began June 8, 1997 and expires June 7, 1999. See Order No. 1148 (December 18, 1996); 61 FR 67860–62 (December 24, 1996); PRC Op. MC97–1 (April 2, 1997); and Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Commission's Recommended Decision (May 6, 1997).

The Service represents, in its two requests and related filings, that developments warrant making the experimental classification and fees permanent for the weight averaging accounting method, but not for the reverse manifest method. At the same time, the Service finds that certain technical and administrative issues