

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Draft Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment a draft of a proposed guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The draft guide, temporarily identified by its task number, DG-1105 (which should be mentioned in all correspondence concerning this draft guide), is titled "Procedures and Criteria for Assessing Seismic Soil Liquefaction at Nuclear Power Plant Sites." This draft guide is being developed to provide guidance to license applicants on methods acceptable to the NRC staff for evaluating the potential for earthquake-induced instability of soils resulting from liquefaction and strength degradation.

This draft guide has not received complete staff approval and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

Comments may be accompanied by relevant information or supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. Comments will be most helpful if received by June 15, 2001.

You may also provide comments via the NRC's interactive rulemaking web site through the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov>). This site provides the ability to upload comments as files (any format) if your web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking web site, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, (301) 415-5905; e-mail CAG@NRC.GOV. For information about the draft guide and the related documents, contact Mr. J. Philip at (301) 415-6211; e-mail JXP@NRC.GOV.

Although a time limit is given for comments on this draft guide, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the NRC's Public

Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD; the PDR's mailing address is USNRC PDR, Washington, DC 20555; telephone (301) 415-4737 or (800) 397-4205; fax (301) 415-3548; email PDR@NRC.GOV. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Reproduction and Distribution Services Section; or by e-mail to <DISTRIBUTION@NRC.GOV>; or by fax to (301) 415-2289. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them. (5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of February 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Michael E. Mayfield,
*Director, Division of Engineering Technology,
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.*
[FR Doc. 01-6616 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Risk-Based Performance Indicators: Results of Phase-1 Development

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced the availability of the draft document entitled: "Risk-Based Performance Indicators: Results of Phase-1 Development," dated January 2001 for review and comment by external stakeholders in a document published in the February 1, 2001 **Federal Register** (66 FR 8606). Interested individuals may obtain a copy of this document from the person identified under the caption: **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.** As a result of comments received during the February 21, 2001 meeting, the NRC is extending the comment period to allow the industry to incorporate insights from the April 24, 2001 public meeting into their written comments. In addition, the NRC is interested in receiving comments on specific topics reviewers wish to discuss at the April 24, 2001 meeting. Reviewers are requested to contact Mr. Hossein Hamzehee at 301-415-6228 or hgh@nrc.gov by April 17, 2001, with comments or issues they

wish to have addressed at the April 24, 2001 meeting.

DATES: Submit comments by May 14, 2001. 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.

A public meeting will be held on April 24, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss external stakeholder comments on the results of Phase-1 RBPI development, and the technical feasibility of applying these concepts in the Reactor Oversight Process.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Deliver comments to: 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays.

The public meeting will be held at Two White Flint North Auditorium, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

The draft document and certain other documents related to this action, including comments received, may be examined in the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hossein G. Hamzehee, Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone: 301-415-6228, e-mail: hgh@nrc.gov

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of March, 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas L. King,
Director, Division of Risk Analysis and Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 01-6618 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

[OMB Circular No. A-94]

Discount Rates for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Federal Programs

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Revisions to Appendix C of OMB Circular A-94.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget revised Circular A-94 in 1992. The revised Circular specified

certain discount rates to be updated annually when the interest rate and inflation assumptions used to prepare the budget of the United States Government were changed. These discount rates are found in Appendix C of the revised Circular. The updated discount rates are shown below. The discount rates in Appendix C are to be used for cost-effectiveness analysis, including lease-purchase analysis, as specified in the revised Circular. They do not apply to regulatory analysis.

DATES: The revised discount rates are effective immediately and will be in effect through January 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert B. Anderson, Office of Economic Policy, Office of Management and Budget, (202) 395-3381.

Amy C. Smith,
Associate Director for Economic Policy, Office of Management and Budget.

Attachment
[OMB Circular No. A-94]

Appendix C

(Revised February 2001)

Discount Rates for Cost-Effectiveness, Lease Purchase, and Related Analyses

Effective Dates. This appendix is updated annually around the time of the President's

budget submission to Congress. This version of the appendix is valid through the end of January, 2002. Copies of the updated appendix and the Circular can be obtained in an electronic form through the OMB home page, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>. Updates of the appendix are also available upon request from OMB's Office of Economic Policy (202-395-3381), as is a table of past years' rates.

Nominal Discount Rates. Nominal interest rates based on the economic assumptions from the budget are presented below. These nominal rates are to be used for discounting nominal flows, which are often encountered in lease-purchase analysis.

NOMINAL INTEREST RATES ON TREASURY NOTES AND BONDS OF SPECIFIED MATURITIES

[In percent]

3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year	30-year
5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3

Real Discount Rates. Real interest rates based on the economic assumptions from the

budget are presented below. These real rates are to be used for discounting real (constant-

dollar) flows, as is often required in cost-effectiveness analysis.

REAL INTEREST RATES ON TREASURY NOTES AND BONDS OF SPECIFIED MATURITIES

[In percent]

3-year	5-year	7-year	10-year	30-year
3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2

Analyses of programs with terms different from those presented above may use a linear interpolation. For example, a four-year project can be evaluated with a rate equal to the average of the three-year and five-year rates. Programs with durations longer than 30 years may use the 30-year interest rate.

[FR Doc. 01-6554 Filed 3-15-01; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. R2000-1; Order No. 1305]

Notice and Order Concerning Request for Reconsideration of Commission's Docket No. R2000-1 Further Opinion and Recommended Decision

AGENCY: Postal Rate Commission.

ACTION: Notice and order on reconsideration of Commission's docket no. R2000-1 further opinion and recommended decision.

SUMMARY: This document informs the public that the Governors of the Postal Service have requested reconsideration of the Commission's further opinion and recommended decision in docket no. R2000-1 as it relates to the Service's revenue requirement. It invites

comments on several questions. It also sets deadlines for initial and reply comments.

DATES: Initial comments are due March 19, 2001. Reply comments are due March 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the attention of Steven W. Williams, acting secretary, 1333 H Street NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268-0001.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202-789-6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Authority to Reconsider the Decision

39 U.S.C. 3625(f).

B. Procedural History

65 FR 79141, Dec. 18, 2000.

C. Background

On November 13, 2000 the Commission issued its initial opinion and recommended decision in docket no. R2000-1. On December 5, 2000 the Governors of the United States Postal Service accepted that recommended decision under protest and returned it for reconsideration of certain specified issues. After obtaining an explanation

from the Postal Service, comments from other participants, and reply comments from the Postal Service the Commission provided its opinion and further recommended decision addressing these issues on February 9, 2001.

On March 6, 2001 the decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the further recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission on postal rate and fee changes, docket No. R2000-1 (Governors decision) was transmitted to the Commission. The Governors decision rejects the Commission's opinion and further recommended decision and returns docket no. R2000-1 for reconsideration of the Postal Service's revenue requirement.

The Governors believe that the revenue requirement is \$69.8 billion. They forthrightly urge the Commission either to recommend rates that would generate this amount of revenue, or to provide some other recommended decision "with great expedition so that we can consider exercising our statutorily-limited modification option."

The Governors recognize that the Commission has previously found that the existing evidentiary record in docket no. R2000-1 does not support a \$69.8