

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection request to OMB and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC is preparing a submittal to OMB for review of continued approval of information collections under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Information pertaining to the requirement to be submitted:

1. *The title of the information collection:* NRC Form 396, "Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee".

2. *Current OMB approval number:* 3150-0024.

3. *How often the collection is required:* Upon application for an initial operator license, every six years for the renewal of operator or senior operator license, and upon notices of disability.

4. *Who is required or asked to report:* Facility licensees who are tasked with certifying the medical fitness of an applicant or licensee.

5. *The number of annual respondents:* 140.

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* 751 (275 hours for reporting [25 hours per response] and 476 hours for recordkeeping [3.4 hours per recordkeeper]).

7. *Abstract:* NRC Form 396 is used to transmit information to the NRC regarding the medical condition of applicants for initial operator licenses or renewal of operator licenses and for the maintenance of medical records for all licensed operators. The information is used to determine whether the physical condition and general health of applicants for operator licensees is such that the applicant would not be expected to cause operational errors and endanger public health and safety.

Submit, by October 15, 2002, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?

2. Is the burden estimate accurate?

3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Room O-1 F23, Rockville, MD 20852. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/index.html>. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T-6 E6, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by telephone at 301-415-7233, or by Internet electronic mail to INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of August 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-20727 Filed 8-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs; Issue

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of issuance.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued Bulletin (BL) 2002-02 to all holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel, and all holders of operating licenses for boiling-water reactors for information. It concerns the recent discoveries of cracked and leaking Alloy 600 vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles at several PWRs and the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head degradation at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. These discoveries have raised concerns about the adequacy of current inspection programs that rely on visual examinations as the primary inspection method to ensure RPV head and VHP structural integrity. Specifically, the

staff is concerned that the inspection methods and frequencies (*i.e.*, inspection intervals) of current inspection programs may not be sufficient. Based on experience and information currently available, it may be necessary for inspection programs that rely on visual examinations to be supplemented with additional measures (*e.g.*, volumetric and surface examinations) to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations.

The issuance of this bulletin is the first step in a multi-step approach to address concerns about the adequacy of inspection requirements and programs for RPV heads and VHP nozzles. The other steps are: review the bulletin responses and determine what further regulatory actions are needed (*e.g.*, revision to 10 CFR 50.55a), review the Electric Power Research Institute's Material Reliability Program's (MRP's) proposed inspection program once an applicable technical basis is provided, encourage the revision of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code inspection requirements, and, if acceptable, incorporate the revised ASME Code requirements into NRC regulations.

The purpose of the bulletin is to (1) advise PWR addressees that visual examinations, as a primary inspection method for the RPV head and VHP nozzles, may need to be supplemented with additional measures (*e.g.*, volumetric and surface examinations) to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations, (2) advise PWR addressees that inspection methods and frequencies to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulations should be demonstrated to be reliable and effective, (3) request information from all PWR addressees concerning their RPV head and VHP nozzle inspection programs to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, and (4) require all addressees to provide written responses to the bulletin related to their inspection program plans.

DATES: The bulletin was issued on August 9, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Not applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Allen L. Hiser, at 301-415-1034, Timothy K. Steingass, at 301-415-3312, Michael L. Marshall, at 301-415-2734, or Steven D. Bloom, at 301-415-1313.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Bulletin 2002-02 may be examined and/or copied for a fee at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and is accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and

Management Systems (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession No. for the bulletin is ML022200494.

If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of August 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David B. Matthews,

Director, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 02-20729 Filed 8-14-02; 8:45 am]

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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or can be derived from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's Web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The required interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in August 2002. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in September 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024. (TTY/TDD users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate (the "required interest rate") in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The required interest rate is the "applicable percentage" (currently 100 percent) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). (Although the Treasury Department has ceased issuing 30-year securities, the Internal Revenue Service announces a surrogate yield figure each month—based on the 30-year Treasury bond maturing in February 2031—which the PBGC uses to determine the required interest rate.)

The required interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in August 2002 is 5.39 percent.

The following table lists the required interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between September 2001 and August 2002.

For premium payment years beginning in:	The required interest rate is:
September 2001	4.66
October 2001	4.66
November 2001	4.52
December 2001	4.35
January 2002	5.48
February 2002	5.45
March 2002	5.40
April 2002	5.71
May 2002	5.68
June 2002	5.65
July 2002	5.52
August 2002	5.39

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in September 2002 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 8th day of August, 2002.

Joseph H. Grant,

Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 02-20703 Filed 8-14-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7708-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Data Collection Available for Public Comment and Recommendations

Summary: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) will publish periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title and Purpose of Information Collection

Evidence of Marital Relationship, Living with Requirements; OMB 3220-0021.

To support an application for a spouse or widow(er)'s annuity under Sections 2(c) or 2(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act, an applicant must submit proof of a valid marriage to a railroad employee. In some cases, the existence of a marital relationship is not formalized by a civil or religious ceremony. In other cases, questions may arise about the legal termination of a prior marriage of an employee, spouse, or widow(er). In these instances, the RRB must secure additional information to resolve questionable marital relationships. The circumstances requiring an applicant to submit documentary evidence of marriage are prescribed in 20 CFR 219.30.

In the absence of documentary evidence to support the existence of a valid marriage between a spouse or widow(er) annuity applicant and a railroad employee, the RRB needs to obtain information to determine if a