

take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By June 22, 2000, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>). If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's

property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the

Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire, Nuclear Business Unit—N21, P.O. Box 236, Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038.

Non-timely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated April 10, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of May.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Robert J. Fretz,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-12963 Filed 5-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Actuarial Advisory Committee With Respect to the Railroad Retirement Account; Notice of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Public Law 92-463 that the Actuarial Advisory Committee will hold

a meeting on May 25, 2000, at 10:30 a.m. at the office of the Chief Actuary of the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois, on the conduct of the 21st Actuarial Valuation of the Railroad Retirement System. The agenda for this meeting will include a discussion of the results and presentation of the 21st Actuarial Valuation. The text and tables which constitute the Valuation will have been prepared in draft form for review by the Committee. It is expected that this will be the last meeting of the Committee before publication of the Valuation.

The meeting will be open to the public. Persons wishing to submit written statements or make oral presentations should address their communications or notices to the RRB Actuarial Advisory Committee, c/o Chief Actuary, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

Dated: May 11, 2000.

Beatrice Ezerski,
Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-12866 Filed 5-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905-01-M

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-24456; File No. 812-12092]

Northbrook Life Insurance Company, et al.

May 16, 2000.

AGENCY: Securities and exchange Commission ("Commission")

ACTION: Notice of application for an order pursuant to Section 11(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") approving the terms of an offer of a Longevity Reward Rider to owners of certain variable annuity contracts (the "Contracts").

Applicants: Northbrook Life Insurance Company ("Northbrook"), Northbrook Life Insurance Company Variable Annuity Account II ("Account II"), and Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. ("Dean Witter").

Summary of Application: Applicants seek an order approving the terms of a proposed offer to certain owners of the Contracts of a rider that (a) upon death of a Contract's owner, gives any surviving spouse the option of continuing the Contract with a value equal to the death benefit then payable, (b) reduces or waives certain charges, and (c) imposes a new withdrawal charge on purchase payments made before or after the rider's issue date (the "Rider Date").

Filing Date: The application was filed on May 15, 2000.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Secretary of the Commission and serving Applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests must be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on June 7, 2000, and should be accompanied by proof of service on Applicants in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the requester's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC. 20549-0609. Applicants, Bruce A. Teichner, Esq., Associate Counsel, Allstate Life Insurance Company, 3100 Sanders Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann L. Vlcek, Senior Counsel, Michael D. Pappas, Senior Counsel, or William J. Kotapish, Assistant Director, Office of Insurance Products, Division of Investment Management, at (202) 942-0670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application is available for a fee from the Public Reference Branch of the Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, DC. 20549-0102, (202) 942-8090.

Applicant's Representations

1. Northbrook is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Allstate Life Insurance company ("Allstate Life"). Allstate Life is an indirect subsidiary of The Allstate Corporation, a publicly-traded insurance holding company. Northbrook is Account II's depositor within the meaning of the Act.

2. Dean Witter is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., a publicly-traded financial services company. Dean Witter is the principal underwriter of Account II. Dean Witter is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (File No. 9-14172).

3. Account II is registered under the Act as a unit investment trust (File No. 811-6116). Account II funds the Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Variable Annuity II Contracts (defined above as the "Contracts") that Northbrook and Dean

Witter have offered and sold for a number of years.

4. The Contracts, which are registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (File No. 033-35412), are deferred annuity contracts under which Contract owners may make one or more purchase payments over a period of time (called the "accumulation phase"). During the accumulation phase, the Contract owner's purchase payments, after deduction of certain charges, earn (at the owner's election) a "variable" return based on the investment performance of one or more of Account II's subaccounts and/or a fixed rate of return that Northbrook declares from time to time.

5. At the end of the accumulation phase, the Contract owner elects whether to receive a "lump sum" payment of the Contract's accumulated value, or to receive that value under one of several payment options that Northbrook offers. Payment options are available on a variable and/or fixed basis. The Contracts incorporate many other features, including several "death benefit" options, partial withdrawal rights, full surrender rights, transfer privileges, and other optional rider benefits.

6. The Contracts currently impose a withdrawal charge of up to 6% of any amount by which purchase payments withdrawn in any year exceed 15% of the cumulative purchase payments that had been made as of the beginning of that year (the "annual free withdrawal amount"). The withdrawal charge associated with each purchase payment declines 1% each year until it is 0% beginning in the seventh year after the payment was made. Unused portions of the annual free withdrawal amount do not carry over to future years.

7. The Contracts also impose an annual Contract maintenance charge of \$30, a \$25 charge applicable to certain transfers in excess of twelve during a one-year period (which is currently being waived), a daily administrative charge at an annual rate of 0.10% of the Contract's value in Account II, a mortality and expense risk charge at an annual rate of 1.25% of the Contract's value in Account II (or higher if certain optional rider benefits are selected), and a charge corresponding to any applicable state premium taxes.

8. Northbrook now proposes to offer a Longevity Reward Rider (the "LRR") to owners of certain outstanding Contracts. The LRR provides additional Contract benefits. The benefits under the LRR include: (a) An option whereby a deceased owner's surviving spouse may continue the Contract using the then-current death benefit value as the new Contract value, if higher, rather