

change to the operation of the plant has no relation to security issues. Therefore, the common defense and security is not diminished by this exemption.

4.8 Special Circumstances

One of the special circumstances described in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) is that the application of the regulation is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. The underlying purpose of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G is to ensure that at least one means of achieving and maintaining safe shutdown remains available during and following a postulated fire event. While the licensee does not comply with the explicit requirements of Section III.G.2, the approved OMAs, in conjunction with the other installed fire protection features, provide a method to ensure that a train of equipment necessary to achieve and maintain safe shutdown of the plant will be available in the event of a fire in these fire zones. The NRC staff concludes that application of the regulation is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule for the plant configurations approved in this exemption. Therefore special circumstances exist, as required by 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), that warrant the issuance of this exemption.

5.0 Conclusion

Based on all of the features of the defense-in-depth concept discussed for the fire zones listed in Section 4.4 of this exemption, the NRC staff concludes that the use of specific OMAs found acceptable in Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of this evaluation, in these particular instances and in conjunction with the other installed fire protection features, in lieu of strict compliance with the requirements of III.G.2, will allow IP3 to meet the underlying purpose of the rule for those fire zones. The use of other specific OMAs in certain fire zones were found to be not acceptable, as discussed in Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of this evaluation, and as such, are not approved by this exemption.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, is consistent with the common defense and security and that special circumstances are present to warrant issuance of the exemption. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Entergy an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G.2 of Appendix R of 10 CFR part 50, to utilize the OMAs approved above at IP3.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (76 FR 74832).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this first day of February 2012.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michele G. Evans,

Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

Board Meeting: March 7, 2012—Albuquerque, NM; The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board Will Meet To Discuss DOE Work on Criteria and Modeling for Generic Repository Geologies

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Public Law 100-203, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold a public meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. The meeting will focus on Department of Energy (DOE) work related to geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Following up on presentations at the Board's January meeting in Arlington, Virginia, DOE will discuss technical site-selection criteria for a deep geologic repository. A representative of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will provide a USGS perspective on this subject. The meeting also will include a presentation on the status of DOE's development of performance assessment models for different rock types and its evaluation of technical issues related to deep borehole disposal. A representative of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (BRC) will kick off the meeting with an overview of the BRC's final report and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy.

The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at approximately 5:45 p.m. It will be held at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale Blvd. SE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106; (Tel) 505-843-7000; (Fax) 505-843-6307. A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel for meeting attendees. To ensure receiving the Federal government rate of \$81.00 per night, room reservations must be made in the "NWTRB" room block by Friday, February 17, 2012. The number to call

for reservations is 1-800-227-1117. The electronic reservation link is <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1201240950&key=A0B7A>.

A detailed agenda will be available on the Board's Web site at www.nwtrb.gov approximately one week before the meeting. The agenda also may be obtained by telephone request at that time.

The meeting will be open to the public, and an opportunity for public comment will be provided at the end of the day. Those wanting to speak are encouraged to sign the "Public Comment Register" at the check-in table. A time limit may need to be set for individual remarks, but written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

A transcript of the meeting will be available on the Board's Web site, by email, on computer disk, or in paper form on a library-loan basis from Davonya Barnes of the Board's staff after March 30, 2012.

The Board was established as an independent federal agency to provide ongoing objective expert advice to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on technical issues related to nuclear waste management and to review the technical validity of DOE activities related to implementing the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Board members are experts in their fields and are appointed to the Board by the President from a list of candidates submitted by the National Academy of Sciences. The Board is required to report to Congress and the Secretary no fewer than two times each year. Board reports, correspondence, congressional testimony, and meeting transcripts and materials are posted on the Board's Web site.

For information on the meeting agenda, contact Karyn Severson. For information on lodging or logistics, contact Linda Coultry. They can be reached at 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, VA 22201-3367; (tel) 703-235-4473; (fax) 703-235-4495.

Dated: February 9, 2012.

Nigel Mote,

Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management.