For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated December 7, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, *http:www.nrc.gov* (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard J. Laufer,

Project Manager, Secton 2 Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–6500 Filed 3–15–00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Public Workshop on Prioritizing Nuclear Materials Regulatory Applications for New Risk-Informed Approaches

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is in the initial stage of developing an approach for using risk information in the nuclear materials regulatory process. As a first step, the NRC staff has developed draft screening criteria for new regulatory applications to meet to be candidates for expanded use of risk information. The NRC staff has scheduled a workshop to (1) solicit public input in the development of these screening criteria and their applications, and (2) solicit public input in the process for developing appropriate nuclear materials safety goals. The meeting is open to the public and all interested parties may attend and provide comments.

DATES: The workshop will be held on April 25, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and April 26, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Submit comments by May 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Exact location of the workshop has yet to be determined, but will be in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. When available, the location will be posted on the NRC website (*www.nrc.gov*) under meeting notices. Mail written comments to David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, T6–D59, Washington, D.C., 20555–0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stacey Rosenberg, Mail Stop T–8–K10, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Telephone: (301) 415–8117; Internet: SLR1@NRC.GOV. An agenda will be available to the public and will be distributed to participants prior to the workshop. Contact the workshop facilitator, Chip Cameron, regarding the agenda and workshop location. Telephone: 301–415–1642; Internet: FXC@NRC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In SECY–99–100, ''Framework for Risk-informed Regulation in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards'', dated March 31, 1999, the NRC staff proposed a framework for risk-informed regulation in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). On June 28, 1999, the Commission approved the staff's proposal. In the associated staff requirements memorandum (SRM), the Commission approved the staff's recommendation to implement a five-step process consisting of:

(1) Identifying candidate regulatory applications that are amenable to expanded use of risk assessment information;

(2) Making a decision on how to modify a regulation or regulated activity;

(3) Changing current regulatory approaches;

(4) Implementing risk-informed approaches; and

(5) Developing or adapting existing tools and techniques of risk analysis to the regulation of nuclear materials safety and safeguards.

The focus of this workshop will be on (1) The process for identifying the specific regulatory applications that are amenable to expanded use of risk assessment information—step 1 of the five-step process—and (2) the process for developing appropriate nuclear materials safety goals. Step one of the five-step process will be accomplished by first defining screening criteria and then identifying regulatory application areas (e.g., licensing, inspection, rulemaking) that would be amenable to risk-informed approaches. These could, for example, include rulemaking activities, licensee performance assessment, or enforcement of regulatory requirements. Because of limited resources, the NRC staff is proposing a step-by-step approach, rather than a comprehensive reevaluation in all areas. The NRC staff's work to implement subsequent steps, namely steps 2 through 5 of the five-step process, will be prioritized based on safety, efficiency and effectiveness, and burden reduction.

The NRC staff proposes the following approach for step 1. A new regulatory application should meet the following draft screening criteria to be a candidate for expanded use of risk information:

1. A proposed risk-informed regulatory approach to a new licensing or inspection activity will resolve a question with respect to maintaining or improving the activity's safety basis, will improve the efficiency or the effectiveness of NRC processes, or will reduce unnecessary regulatory burden for the applicant or licensee;

2. Sufficient information (data), and analytical methods exist or can be developed to support risk-informing a regulation or regulatory activity;

3. Startup and implementation can be realized at a reasonable cost to the NRC and the applicant or licensee, and provide a net benefit. The net benefit will be considered to apply to the public, the applicant or licensee, and the NRC staff.

The NRC staff requests public comments on these draft criteria.

Related to the criteria, the NRC staff is also soliciting comments on the following items and questions. The intent of publishing these questions is to foster discussion about the issues at the workshop.

1. What specific applications or general areas of nuclear materials regulation do you believe NRC should focus its efforts in applying risk information to its regulatory framework, and why?

2. Will the various segments of the regulated community accept more risk-informed approaches in regulatory applications?

3. What factors should be considered in prioritizing NRC's efforts to systematically review regulatory activities for application of risk information?

4. How can data collection and processing information be enhanced without significant additional burden to licensees and applicants?

5. Could measures be made available under a more risk-informed approach which would allow the agency and the licensees to judge performance, recognize weaknesses, and provide opportunities for correction before significant safety issues or events occur?

6. What are the costs and benefits of risk-informing NMSS licensing and inspection activities?

In addition, in its SRM on SECY–99–100, the Commission directed the NRC staff to develop appropriate material safety goals analogous to the reactor safety goals and include, as a goal, the

avoidance of property damage. The NRC staff will open a discussion on a process for developing material safety goals during this workshop with the following questions and considerations:

1. What are your perceptions of a safety goal for nuclear materials?
2. What would be an effective process for developing nuclear materials safety goals?
3. How can the safety goal development process contribute to improving the regulatory process by helping to identify and articulate the underlying safety philosophy and safety principles currently driving the spectrum of NMSS programs?
4. What factors should be considered in the development of nuclear materials safety goals?
5. What aspects of future nuclear material safety goals can or should be analogous to the reactor safety goals?
6. Should separate safety goals for each activity regulated under each program area be contemplated?
7. What areas will have the greatest impact as a result of having a safety goal or goals?
8. How resource intensive will it be to develop a safety goal or goals?
9. What would change as a result of having safety goals (lives saved, costs savings, increased public confidence)?

The workshop will be conducted in a ''roundtable'' format. In order to have a manageable discussion, the number of participants around the table will, of necessity, be limited. NRC, through the facilitator for the meeting, will attempt to ensure broad participation by the broad spectrum of interests at the meeting, including citizen and environmental groups, nuclear industry interests, state, tribal, and local governments, experts from academia, or other agencies. Other members of the public are welcome to attend, and the public will have the opportunity to comment on each agenda item to be discussed by the roundtable participants.

Dated at Rockville, MD, this 9th day of March, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Donald A. Cool,

Director, Division of Industrial and Medical.

Nuclear Safety, NMSS

[FR Doc. 00–6501 Filed 3–15–00; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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) publishes 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: Application for Hospital Insurance Benefits; OMB 3220–0082. Under Section 7(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act (RRA), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) administers the Medicare program for persons covered by the railroad retirement system. The RRB currently uses Form AA–6, Employee Application for Medicare; Form AA–7, Spouse/Divorced Spouse Application For Medicare; and Form AA–8, Widow/Widower Application for Medicare; to obtain the information needed to determine whether individuals who have not yet filed for benefits under the RRA are qualified for Medicare payments provided under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act. Completion is required to obtain a benefit. One response is requested of each respondent. The RRB proposes minor editorial changes to Forms AA–6, AA–7 and AA–8. The RRB estimates that 180 Form AA–6's, 50 Form AA–7's, and 10 Form AA–8's are completed annually. The completion time for each form is estimated at 8 minutes.

The renewal of this information collection will begin the RRB's initiative to consolidate information collections by major functional areas. The purpose of the initiative is to bring related collection instruments together in one collection, better manage the instruments, and prepare for the electronic collection of this information. (A collection instrument can be an individual form, electronic collection, interview, or any other method that collects specific information from the public.)

As part of the OMB renewal process, the RRB also proposes that this collection (OMB 3220–0082), Application for Hospital Insurance Benefits, be renamed Medicare. Upon approval by OMB, the RRB intends to merge the following OMB approved Medicare-related collections into this collection by the expected expiration date(s).

OMB Collection No.	Title	RRB forms	Expected expiration date
3220–0189	Evidence of Coverage Under an Employer Group Health Plan	RL–311–F	9/30/2001
3220–0185	Report of Medicaid State Office on Beneficiary's Buy-In Status	RL–380F	7/31/2002
3220–0086	Application for Reimbursement for Hospital Insurance Services in Canada	AA–104	7/31/2002
3220–0131	Request for Medicare Payment	G–740S HCFA–1500	8/31/2002
3220–0100	Request for Review of Part B Medicare Claim	G–790 G–791	11/30/2002.

Revisions to existing collection instruments and, occasionally, a new instrument related to this program function may be required during the three-year cycle of this information collection.

The RRB currently estimates the completion time for Form RL–311–F, Evidence of Coverage Under an Employer Group Health Plan at 10 minutes, Form RL–380F, Report of Problem to State Welfare Agency on Enrollees Medicare Status at 10 minutes, Form AA–104, Application for Reimbursement for Hospital Insurance Services in Canada at 10 minutes, Form G–740S, Patient's Request for Medicare Payment at 15 minutes, Form G–790, Request for Review of Part B Medicare Claim at 15 minutes, and Form G–791, Request for Hearing, Part B Medicare Claim at 15 minutes. After the last information collection is merged and other necessary adjustments are made,