

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[NRC–2021–0112]

**Fuel Qualification for Advanced Reactors****AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.**ACTION:** Draft NUREG; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment a draft NUREG, NUREG–2246, “Fuel Qualification for Advanced Reactors.” The purpose of this NUREG report is to provide a fuel qualification assessment framework for use by applicants. Specifically, the framework provides objective criteria, derived from regulatory requirements, that when satisfied, would support regulatory findings for licensing.

**DATES:** Submit comments by August 30, 2021. 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 before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal Rulemaking website:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2021–0112. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301–415–0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individuals listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN–7–A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy Drzewiecki, telephone: 301–415–5184, email: [Timothy.Drzewiecki@nrc.gov](mailto:Timothy.Drzewiecki@nrc.gov) and Jordan Hoellman, telephone: 301–415–5481, email: [Jordan.Hoellman2@nrc.gov](mailto:Jordan.Hoellman2@nrc.gov). Both are staff of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments***A. Obtaining Information*

Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2021–0112 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2021–0112.
- *NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). The draft NUREG, NUREG–2246, “Fuel Qualification for Advanced Reactors” is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML21168A063.

- *Attention:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents, is currently closed. You may submit your request to the PDR via email at [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov) or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*B. Submitting Comments*

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal Rulemaking website (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID NRC–2021–1112 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment

submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

**II. Discussion**

Proposed advanced reactor designs use fuel designs and operating environments (e.g., neutron energy spectra, fuel temperatures, neighboring materials) that differ from the large experience base available for traditional light-water reactor fuel. The purpose of this report is to identify criteria that will be useful for advanced reactor designs through an assessment framework that would support regulatory findings associated with nuclear fuel qualification. The report begins by examining the regulatory basis and related guidance applicable to fuel qualification, noting that the role of nuclear fuel in the protection against the release of radioactivity for a nuclear facility depends heavily on the reactor design. The report considers the use of accelerated fuel qualification techniques and lead test specimen programs that may shorten the timeline for qualifying fuel for use in a nuclear reactor at the desired parameters (e.g., burnup). The assessment framework particularly emphasizes the identification of key fuel manufacturing parameters, the specification of a fuel performance envelope to inform testing requirements, the use of evaluation models in the fuel qualification process, and the assessment of the experimental data used to develop and validate evaluation models and empirical safety criteria.

Dated: June 25, 2021.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**John P. Segala,**

*Chief, Advanced Reactor Policy Branch,  
Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power Production and Utilization Facilities,  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 2021–13955 Filed 6–29–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–P**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket Nos. 50–445 and 50–446; NRC–2020–0110]

**Issuance of Multiple Exemptions in Response to COVID–19 Public Health Emergency**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Exemptions; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued two

exemptions in response to requests from one licensee. The exemptions afford the licensee temporary relief from certain requirements under NRC regulations. The exemptions are in response to the licensee's requests for relief due to the coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE). The NRC is issuing a single notice to announce the issuance of the exemptions.

**DATES:** During the period from May 17, 2021, to May 19, 2021, the NRC granted two exemptions in response to requests submitted by one licensee from April 16, 2021, to April 21, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2020-0110 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2020-0110. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301-415-0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov). For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the "Availability of Documents" section.

- **Attention:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents, is currently closed. You

may submit your request to the PDR via email at [pdr.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov) or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James Danna, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-7422, email: [James.Danna@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Danna@nrc.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **I. Introduction**

During the period from May 17, 2021, to May 19, 2021, the NRC granted two exemptions in response to requests submitted by one licensee from April 16, 2021, to April 21, 2021. These exemptions temporarily allow the licensee to deviate from certain requirements (as cited in this notice) of various parts of chapter I of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR).

The exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix E, "Emergency Planning and Preparedness for Production and Utilization Facilities," section IV.F., "Training," for Vistra Operations Company LLC (for Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2), grants a temporary exemption from the offsite biennial emergency preparedness exercise requirement. The exemption affords this licensee temporary relief from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix E, regarding offsite response organization (ORO) participation in the biennial emergency preparedness exercise for calendar year 2021. This exemption will not adversely affect the emergency response capability of the facility because the licensee has conducted numerous drills, exercises, and other training activities that have exercised the licensee's emergency response strategies since the last evaluated biennial emergency preparedness exercise and that State, county and local OROs have participated therein.

The exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR part 73, appendix B, "General Criteria for Security Personnel," section VI, "Nuclear Power Reactor Training and Qualification Plan for Personnel Performing Security Program Duties," for Vistra Operations Company LLC (for Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2) ensures that these regulatory requirements do not unduly limit licensee flexibility in using personnel resources to most effectively manage the impacts of the COVID-19 PHE on maintaining the safe and secure operation of this facility and the implementation of the licensee's NRC-approved security plans, protective strategy, and implementing procedures. The licensee has committed to certain security measures to ensure response readiness and for its security personnel to maintain performance capability.

The NRC is providing compiled tables of exemptions using a single **Federal Register** notice for COVID-19 related exemptions instead of issuing individual **Federal Register** notices for each exemption. The compiled tables in this notice provide transparency regarding the number and type of exemptions the NRC has issued. Additionally, the NRC publishes tables of approved regulatory actions related to the COVID-19 PHE on its public website at <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/covid-19/reactors/licensing-actions.html>.

#### **II. Availability of Documents**

The tables in this notice provide the facility name, docket number, document description, and ADAMS accession number for each exemption issued. Additional details on each exemption issued, including the exemption request submitted by the respective licensee and the NRC's decision, are provided in each exemption approval listed in the tables in this notice. For additional directions on accessing information in ADAMS, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

### COMANCHE PEAK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 DOCKET NOS. 50-445 AND 50-446

| Document description  | ADAMS accession No. |
|---|---------------------|
| Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2—One-Time Request for Exemption from the Biennial Emergency Preparedness Exercise Requirements in 10 CFR part 50, appendix E, sections IV.F.2.b and IV.F.2.c, dated April 21, 2021        | ML21111A364         |
| Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2—Temporary Exemption from Requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix E, sections IV.F.2.b and IV.F.2.c (EPID L-2021-LLE-0028 [COVID-19]), dated May 17, 2021                                | ML21119A349         |
| Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2—Request for a Temporary Exemption from 10 CFR part 73, appendix B, section VI, subsection A.7 Regarding Annual Force-on-Force (FOF) Exercises, due to COVID-19 PHE, dated April 16, 2021 | ML21106A293         |

COMANCHE PEAK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2—Continued  
DOCKET NOS. 50–445 AND 50–446

| Document description  | ADAMS accession No. |
|---|---------------------|
| Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2—Supplemental Information Regarding Request for a Temporary Exemption from 10 CFR part 73, appendix B, section VI, subsection A.7 Regarding Annual Force-on-Force (FOF) Exercises [COVID–19], dated May 12, 2021 .....    | ML21132A126         |
| Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2—Temporary Exemption from Annual Force-on-Force Exercise Requirement of 10 CFR part 73, appendix B, “General Criteria for Security Personnel,” subsection A.7 (EPID L–2021–LLE–0024 [COVID–19]), dated May 19, 2021 ..... | ML21133A003         |

Dated: June 24, 2021.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**James G. Danna,**

Chief, Plant Licensing Branch I, Division of  
Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of  
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2021–13887 Filed 6–29–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### Submission for Review: 3206–0173, CSRS/FERS Designation of Beneficiary, Standard Form 3102

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel  
Management.

**ACTION:** 30-Day notice and request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** Retirement Services, Office of  
Personnel Management (OPM) offers the  
general public and other federal  
agencies the opportunity to comment on  
a revised information collection request  
(ICR), CSRS/FERS Designation of  
Beneficiary, Standard Form 3102.

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and  
will be accepted until July 30, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are  
invited to submit written comments on  
the proposed information collection to  
the Office of Information and Regulatory  
Affairs, Office of Management and  
Budget, 725 17th Street NW,  
Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Desk  
Officer for the Office of Personnel  
Management or sent via electronic mail  
to: [oira\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.eop.gov) or  
faxed to (202) 395–6974.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A  
copy of this ICR with applicable  
supporting documentation, may be  
obtained by contacting the Retirement  
Services Publications Team, Office of  
Personnel Management, 1900 E Street  
NW, Room 3316–L, Washington, DC  
20415, Attention: Cyrus S. Benson, or  
sent via electronic mail to  
[Cyrus.Benson@opm.gov](mailto:Cyrus.Benson@opm.gov) or faxed to  
(202) 606–0910 or via telephone at (202)  
606–4808.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As  
required by the Paperwork Reduction  
Act of 1995 OPM is soliciting comments  
for this collection. The information  
collection (OMB No. 3206–0173) was  
previously published in the **Federal  
Register** on August 13, 2020 at 85 FR  
49402, allowing for a 60-day public  
comment period. One comment was  
received: “The SSA agrees that  
combining the SF 2808 and SF 3102  
simplifies the process and eliminates  
the possibility of invalid designations  
due to the completion of the incorrect  
form. Since OPM maintains all SF 2808  
forms, agencies do not have access to  
previously filed forms to respond to  
employee requests for information. This  
may be problematic when employees are  
assessing the need to update their  
records. The new SF 3102 should  
indicate that agencies do not maintain  
the CSRS designation forms and provide  
instructions for employees to complete a  
new form if they are unsure if they have  
previously completed a designation or  
are unsure about whom they have  
previously designated. Otherwise, the  
form should indicate that employees  
must contact OPM for information about  
previously filed SF 2808 forms. The SSA  
suggests that, in addition to accepting  
wet signatures on the retirement  
designation beneficiary forms, OPM  
accept digital signatures using PIV  
credentials by employees and HR  
offices. Forms with validated digital  
employee signatures using PIV  
credentials should not require witness  
signatures. Since it is crucial for  
employees keeping their designation  
forms up to date, having a mechanism  
for electronic submission provides for  
more timely submission by employee  
and certification by HR offices”. Our  
response is: (1) “Filing a designation is  
not needed if the person is satisfied with  
the federal order of precedence for  
payment of lump-sum payment under  
CSRS or FERS. Furthermore, individuals  
receive a copy of the form that is filed  
with the employing agency or OPM and  
can access their personal records to  
determine whether there is a need to  
update a previously filed form.

Additionally, the form cautions the  
applicant that the person designated  
will be paid even if that person’s name  
or relationship to the designator  
changes after the form is filed. We  
revised the instructions to indicate that  
the employee subject to CSRS should  
send both copies of the revised SF 3102  
to OPM who will validate the form and  
provide a copy to the employee for their  
records. We indicated that the  
employing agency does not maintain the  
form of the CSRS employee.” and (2)  
“By regulation, employees are not  
allowed to use electronic signatures or  
PIV/CAC cards to sign the SF 3102,  
Designation of Beneficiary form. Title 5,  
Code of Federal Regulations on CSRS  
designations states that a designation of  
beneficiary must be in writing, signed  
and witnessed and received in the  
employing office (or in OPM, in the case  
of a retiree, or compensation, or a  
separated employee) before the death of  
the designator. Therefore, no changes  
will be made to the signature and  
witness requirement because there are  
no changes to the appropriate  
regulation.” The Office of Management  
and Budget is particularly interested in  
comments that:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed  
collection of information is necessary  
for the proper performance of functions  
of the agency, including whether the  
information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the  
agency’s estimate of the burden of the  
proposed collection of information,  
including the validity of the  
methodology and assumptions used;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and  
clarity of the information to be  
collected; and
4. Minimize the burden of the  
collection of information on those who  
are to respond, including through the  
use of appropriate automated,  
electronic, mechanical, or other  
technological collection techniques or  
other forms of information technology,  
e.g., permitting electronic submissions  
of responses.

Standard Form 3102, CSRS/FERS  
Designation of Beneficiary, is used by an