

the spent fuel assemblies and storing the fuel rods from two or more assemblies into a stainless steel canister that can be stored in the spent fuel racks. Industry experience with rod consolidation is currently limited, primarily due to concerns for potential gap activity release due to rod breakage, the potential for increased fuel cladding corrosion due to some of the protective oxide layer being scraped off, and because the prolonged consolidation activity could interfere with ongoing plant operations. Dry cask storage is a method of transferring spent fuel, after storage in the pool for several years, to high capacity casks with passive heat dissipation features. After loading, the casks are stored outdoors on a seismically qualified concrete pad. Concerns for dry cask storage include the need for special security provisions and high cost. Vault storage consists of storing spent fuel in shielded stainless steel cylinders in a horizontal configuration in a reinforced concrete vault. The concrete vault provides missile and earthquake protection and radiation shielding. Concerns for vault dry storage include security, land consumption, eventual decommissioning of the new vault, the potential for fuel or clad rupture due to high temperatures, and high cost. The alternative of constructing and licensing new spent fuel pools is not practical for Hatch because such an effort would require about 10 years to complete and would be an expensive alternative.

The alternative technologies that could create additional storage capacity involve additional fuel handling with an attendant opportunity for a fuel handling accident, involve higher cumulative dose to workers affecting the fuel transfers, require additional security measures that are significantly more expensive, and would not result in a significant improvement in environmental impacts compared to the proposed reracking modifications.

Reduction of Spent Fuel Generation

Generally, improved usage of the fuel and/or operation at a reduced power level would be an alternative that would decrease the amount of fuel being stored in the SFPs and, thus, increase the amount of time before the maximum storage capabilities of the SFPs are reached. However, operating the plant at a reduced power level would not make effective use of available resources, and would cause unnecessary economic hardship on the licensee and its customers. Therefore, reducing the amount of spent fuel generated by increasing burnup further or reducing

power is not considered a practical alternative.

The No-Action Alternative

The NRC staff also considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the application would result in no significant change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative actions are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 1, 2000, the staff consulted with the Georgia State official, Mr. James Setser of the Department of Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 6, 1999, 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 17th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Leonard N. Olshan,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Appointments to Performance Review Boards for Senior Executive Service

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Appointment to performance review boards for senior executive service.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has announced the following appointments to the NRC Performance Review Boards.

The following individuals are appointed as members of the NRC Performance Review Board (PRB) responsible for making recommendations to the appointing and awarding authorities on performance appraisal ratings and performance awards for Senior Executives and Senior Level Service members:

Patricia G. Norry, Deputy Executive Director for Management Services
 Stephen G. Burns, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel
 Samuel J. Collins, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 Margaret V. Federline, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
 Jesse L. Funches, Chief Financial Officer
 Jon R. Johnson, Associate Director for Inspection and Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
 William F. Kane, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
 Arnold E. Levin, Director, Applications Development Division, Office of the Chief Information Officer
 Paul H. Lohaus, Director, Office of State Programs
 Hubert J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I
 Carl J. Paperiello, Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research and State Programs, Office of the Executive Director for Operations

The following individuals will serve as members of the NRC PRB Panel that was established to review appraisals and make recommendations to the appointing and awarding authorities for NRC PRB members:

Karen D. Cyr, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel
 Frank J. Miraglia, Jr., Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Programs
 Ashok C. Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

All appointments are made pursuant to Section 4314 of Chapter 43 of Title 5 of the United States Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 23, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carolyn J. Swanson, Secretary,
Executive Resources Board, U.S.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Washington, DC 20555, (301) 415-7530.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day
of March 2000.

Carolyn J. Swanson,

Secretary, Executive Resources Board.

[FR Doc. 00-7245 Filed 3-22-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A and B, and placed under Schedule C in the excepted service, as required by Civil Service Rule VI, Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzy Barker, Director Staffing
Reinvention Office, Employment
Service (202) 606-0830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR 213 on February 15, 2000 (65 FR 7577). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A and B and established under Schedule C between January 1, 2000, and January 31, 2000, appear in the listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month, or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities as of June 30 will also be published.

Schedule A

No Schedule A authorities were established or revoked during January 2000.

Schedule B

No Schedule B authorities were established or revoked during January 2000.

Schedule C

The following Schedule C authorities were established during January 2000.

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist to the Executive Director. Effective January 21, 2000.

Department of Agriculture

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. Effective January 7, 2000.

Staff Assistant to the Director, Office of Communications. Effective January 13, 2000.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Effective January 13, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Effective January 14, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service. Effective January 21, 2000.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Risk Management Agency. Effective January 27, 2000.

Department of the Army (DOD)

Speechwriter to the Secretary of the Army. Effective January 3, 2000.

Department of Commerce

Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology. Effective January 3, 2000.

Deputy Director to the Director, Office of External Affairs. Effective January 7, 2000.

Deputy Director for External Affairs and Director of Scheduling to the Director, Office of External Affairs. Effective January 7, 2000.

Deputy Director, Office of Business Liaison to the Director, Office of Business Liaison. Effective January 10, 2000.

Department of Defense

Defense Fellow to the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. Effective January 27, 2000.

Staff Assistant to the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for White House Liaison. Effective January 28, 2000.

Department of Energy

Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Public Affairs. Effective January 6, 2000.

Public Affairs Specialist to the Director, Office of Public Affairs. Effective January 10, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer. Effective January 14, 2000.

Executive Officer to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy. Effective January 21, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Defense Program. Effective January 21, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Science. Effective January 27, 2000.

Special Assistant for Regulatory Compliance to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. Effective January 27, 2000.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Staff Assistant to the Advisor for Management Reform and Operation. Effective January 10, 2000.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Empowerment to the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. Effective January 21, 2000.

Department of Justice

Special Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs. Effective January 3, 2000.

Department of Labor

Special Assistant to the Director of the Womens's Bureau. Effective January 13, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration. Effective January 31, 2000.

Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration. Effective January 31, 2000.

Department of State

Legislative Management Officer to the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs. Effective January 27, 2000.

Department of Transportation

Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of the Administrator. Effective January 24, 2000.

Department of the Treasury

Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary (Enforcement). Effective January 12, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs and Public Liaison. Effective January 19, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs and Public Liaison. Effective January 19, 2000.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs and Public Liaison. Effective January 21, 2000.

Export-Import Bank of the United States

Administrative Assistant to the Director, a Member of the Bank Board of Directors. Effective January 7, 2000.