

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 February 1, 2001, and supplement dated February 12, 2001, which is available for public inspection, and/or copied for a fee, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. 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 20th day of March, 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ledyard B. Marsh,

Chief, Events Assessment, Generic Communications, and Non-Power Reactors Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Attachment

Environmental Considerations Regarding the Licensing of Research Reactors and Critical Facilities

Introduction

This discussion deals with research reactors and critical facilities which are designed to operate at low power levels, 2 MWt and lower, and are used primarily for basic research in neutron physics, neutron radiography, isotope production, experiments associated with nuclear engineering, training and as a part of a nuclear physics curriculum. Operation of such facilities will generally not exceed a 5-day week, 8-hour day, or about 2000 hours per year. Such reactors are located adjacent to technical service support facilities with convenient access for students and faculty.

Sited most frequently on the campuses of large universities, the reactors are usually housed in already existing structures, appropriately modified, or placed in new buildings that are designed and constructed to blend in with existing facilities. However, the environmental considerations discussed herein are not limited to those which are part of universities.

Facility

There are no exterior conduits, pipelines, electrical or mechanical structures or transmission lines attached to or adjacent to the facility other than for utility services, which are similar to those required in other similar facilities, specifically laboratories. Heat dissipation is generally accomplished by use of a cooling tower located on the roof of the building. These cooling towers typically are on the order of 10' x 10' x 10' and are comparable to cooling towers associated with the air-conditioning systems of large office buildings.

Make-up for the cooling system is readily available and usually obtained from the local

water supply. Radioactive gaseous effluents are limited to Ar-41 and the release of radioactive liquid effluents can be carefully monitored and controlled. Liquid wastes are collected in storage tanks to allow for decay and monitoring prior to dilution and release to the sanitary sewer system. Solid radioactive wastes are packaged and shipped offsite for storage at NRC-approved sites. The transportation of such waste is done in accordance with existing NRC-DOT regulations in approved shipping containers.

Chemical and sanitary waste systems are similar to those existing at other similar laboratories and buildings.

Environmental Effects of Site Preparation and Facility Construction

Construction of such facilities invariably occurs in areas that have already been disturbed by other building construction and, in some cases, solely within an already existing building. Therefore, construction would not be expected to have any significant effect on the terrain, vegetation, wildlife or nearby waters or aquatic life. The societal, economic and aesthetic impacts of construction would be no greater than those associated with the construction of a large office building or similar research facility.

Environmental Effects of Facility Operation

Release of thermal effluents from a reactor of less than 2 MWt will not have a significant effect on the environment. This small amount of waste heat is generally rejected to the atmosphere by means of small cooling towers. Extensive drift and/or fog will not occur at this low power level.

Release of routine gaseous effluents can be limited to Ar-41, which is generated by neutron activation of air. Even this will be kept as low as practicable by using gases other than air for supporting experiments. Yearly doses to unrestricted areas will be at or below established guidelines in 10 CFR Part 20 limits. Routine releases of radioactive liquid effluents can be carefully monitored and controlled in a manner that will ensure compliance with current standards. Solid radioactive wastes will be shipped to an authorized disposal site in approved containers. These wastes should not require more than a few shipping containers a year.

Based on experience with other research reactors, specifically TRIGA reactors operating in the 1 to 2 MWt range, the annual release of gaseous and liquid effluents to unrestricted areas should be less than 30 curies and 0.01 curies, respectively.

No release of potentially harmful chemical substances will occur during normal operation. Small amounts of chemicals and/or high-solid content water may be released from the facility through the sanitary sewer during periodic blowdown of the cooling tower or from laboratory experiments.

Other potential effects of the facility, such as aesthetics, noise, societal or impact on local flora and fauna are expected to be too small to measure.

Environmental Effects of Accidents

Accidents ranging from the failure of experiments up to the largest core damage and fission product release considered possible result in doses that are less than 10

CFR part 20 guidelines and are considered negligible with respect to the environment.

Unavoidable Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The unavoidable effects of construction and operation involve the materials used in construction that cannot be recovered and the fissionable material used in the reactor. No adverse impact on the environment is expected from either of these unavoidable effects.

Alternatives to Construction and Operation of the Facility

To accomplish the objectives associated with research reactors, there are no suitable alternatives. Some of these objectives are training of students in the operation of reactors, production of radioisotopes, and use of neutron and gamma ray beams to conduct experiments.

Long-Term Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The long-term effects of research facilities are considered to be beneficial as a result of the contribution to scientific knowledge and training. Because of the relatively small amount of capital resources involved and the small impact on the environment, very little irreversible and irretrievable commitment is associated with such facilities.

Costs and Benefits of Facility Alternatives

The costs are on the order of several millions of dollars with very little environmental impact. The benefits include, but are not limited to, some combination of the following: conduct of activation analyses, conduct of neutron radiography, training of operating personnel, and education of students. Some of these activities could be conducted using particle accelerators or radioactive sources which would be more costly and less efficient. There is no reasonable alternative to a nuclear research reactor for conducting this spectrum of activities.

Conclusion

The staff concludes that there will be no significant environmental impact associated with the licensing of research reactors or critical facilities designed to operate at power levels of 2 MWt or lower and that no environmental impact statements are required to be written for the issuance of construction permits or operating licenses for such facilities.

[FR Doc. 01-7510 Filed 3-26-01; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-44087; File No. 265-22]

Advisory Committee on Market Information

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting of the Securities and Exchange Commission

Advisory Committee on Market Information.

SUMMARY: The fourth meeting of the Securities and Exchange Commission Advisory Committee on Market Information ("Committee") will be held on April 12, 2001, in the William O. Douglas Room, at the Commission's main offices, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be open to the public, and the public is invited to submit written comments to the Committee.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted in triplicate and should refer to File No. 265-22. Comments should be submitted to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anitra Cassas, Special Counsel, Division of Market Regulation, at 202-942-0089; Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-1001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 10a, and the regulations thereunder, the Designated Federal Official of the Committee, David S. Shillman, has ordered publication of this notice that the Committee will conduct a meeting on April 12, 2001, in the William O. Douglas Room at the Commission's main offices, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be open to the public. This will be the fourth meeting of the Committee. The purpose of this meeting will be to continue discussing possible ways to improve the existing model for consolidating and disseminating market information in the equities markets, and other issues relating to the public availability of market information in the equities and options markets.

Dated: March 20, 2001.

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 01-7467 Filed 3-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Notice Seeking Exemption Under Section 312 of the Small Business Investment Act, Conflicts of Interest

Notice is hereby given that TD Lighthouse Capital Fund, L.P. ("TD Lighthouse"), 303 Detroit Street, Suite 301, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104, a Federal Licensee under the Small

Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act"), in connection with the financing of a small concern, have sought an exemption under section 312 of the Act and section 107.730, Financials which Constitute Conflicts of Interest, of the Small Business Administration ("SBA") rules and regulations (13 CFR 107.730 (2000)). TD Lighthouse proposes to provide equity financing to Quorex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Quorex"), 2075 Corte Del Nogal, Suite J, Carlsbad, California 92009. The financing is contemplated for product development and working capital.

The financing is brought within the purview of Section 107.730(a)(1) of the Regulations because TD Origen Capital Fund, L.P. and TD Javelin Capital Fund II, L.P., Associates of TD Lighthouse, currently and collectively own greater than 10 percent of Quorex, and therefore Quorex is considered an Associate of TD Lighthouse as defined in section 107.50 of the regulations.

Notice is hereby given that any interested person may submit written comments on the transaction to the Associate Administrator for Investment, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

Dated: March 19, 2001.

Harry Haskins,

Acting Associate Administrator for Investment.

[FR Doc. 01-7488 Filed 3-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3320]

State of Washington (Amendment #3)

In accordance with a notice received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated March 16, 2001, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on February 28, 2001 and continuing through March 16, 2001.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is April 30, 2001 and for economic injury the deadline is November 30, 2001.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008.)

Dated: March 21, 2001.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 01-7487 Filed 3-26-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3614]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection (OMB 1405-0018): DS-156, Nonimmigrant Visa Application (Formerly OF-156)

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

Type of Request: Extension of Currently Approved Collection
Originating Office: Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Visa Services (CA/VO).

Title of Information Collection: Nonimmigrant Visa Application.

Frequency: Once.

Form Number: DS-156 (formerly OF-156).

Respondents: Most nonimmigrant visa applicants.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 9,600,000.

Average Hours Per Response: 1 hour.

Total Estimated Burden: 9,600,000 hours.

Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency.

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Public comments, or requests for additional information, regarding the collection listed in this notice should be directed to Eric Cohan, 2401 E St., NW., RM L-703, Tel: 202-663-1164, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520.