

replace the seals. Localized corrosion was discovered on the sealing surface of the lid. The fuel was unloaded while repairs were made to the sealing surface. After the sealing surfaces were restored and the seals replaced, the cask was reloaded, leak tested, and returned to the storage pad. During these operations, no releases of radiation to the environment occurred and no spent fuel degradation was found. These two casks were initially loaded and placed in storage in 1996. More information can be found in NRC Inspection Report 72-002/2000-06.

The petitioner believes that the NRC has not evaluated phenomena such as high-temperature zinc reactivity and thermal shock that will allow site personnel very little time to evaluate the situation and initiate corrective actions. The NRC staff reviews areas such as thermal loading, inadvertent criticality, and structural or containment failure for normal and abnormal conditions that are addressed by the designer of the storage system. NRC places thermal load limit restrictions on casks approved for use and requires that fuel be stored in an inert atmosphere. Although no adverse effects of zinc on the cladding of the spent fuel stored in NRC certified casks have as yet been identified, NRC has initiated a research project to investigate the possible effects of zinc on spent fuel cladding.

The NRC staff believes that the petitioner has identified a valid concern regarding the potential recovery of fuel assemblies that unexpectedly degrade during storage. However, in this unlikely event, the NRC staff has concluded that there is reasonable assurance that a licensee can safely unload degraded fuel or address other problems. This conclusion is based on the NRC's defense-in-depth approach to safety that includes requirements to design and operate spent fuel storage systems that minimize the possibility of degradation; requirements to establish competent organizations staffed with experienced, trained, and qualified personnel; and NRC inspections to confirm safety and compliance with requirements. The NRC staff finds acceptable these procedures for detecting degraded fuel through sampling and, on the basis of the sample results, the implementation of appropriate recovery provisions that reflect the ALARA (as low as is reasonably achievable) requirements. The NRC staff's acceptance of this approach is based on the fact that the spent fuel storage cask can be maintained in a safe condition during the time needed to develop the necessary procedures and to assemble

the appropriate equipment before proceeding with cask unloading. The NRC staff also relies on the considerable radiological safety experience available in the nuclear industry in its assessment that appropriately detailed procedures can be prepared for the specific circumstances in a timely manner.

For the reasons cited in this document, the NRC denies this petition.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of January, 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William D. Travers,

Executive Director for Operations.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 438

[FRL-6941-8]

RIN 2040-AB79

Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards for the Metal Products and Machinery Point Source Category; Announcement of Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: EPA is conducting an additional public meeting and hearing on the pretreatment standards for the Metal Products and Machinery (MP&M) proposed rule in Chicago, Illinois on March 8, 2001.

EPA proposed effluent limitations guidelines and standards for the MP&M Industry in the **Federal Register** on January 3, 2001 (66 FR 425). In that document EPA announced public meetings and pretreatment hearings in three locations: Oakland, CA; Dallas, TX; and Washington, DC. Based on stakeholder requests, EPA is adding an additional public meeting and pretreatment hearing in Chicago, IL. For information on the specific location, see the **ADDRESSES** section below.

DATES: EPA is conducting a public meeting (9:00 AM-12:00 PM) and hearing on the pretreatment standards (1:00 PM-4:00 PM) for the MP&M proposed rule on March 8, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The Metal Products and Machinery public meeting and pretreatment hearing will be held at the EPA Region 5 offices in the Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Room 331, Chicago, IL (312) 353-2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Ebner at (202) 260-5397 or Ms. Shari Barash at (202) 260-7130 or by E-mail: ebner.michael@epa.gov or barash.shari@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During the public meeting, EPA will present information on the applicability of the proposed regulation, the technology options selected as the basis for the proposed limitations and standards, and the compliance costs and pollutant reductions. EPA will also allow time for questions and answers during this session. During the pretreatment hearing, the public will have the opportunity to provide oral comment to EPA. EPA will not address any issues raised during the pretreatment hearing at that time, but these comments will be recorded and included in the public record for the rule. Persons wishing to present formal comments at the public hearing should contact Mr. Michael Ebner before the hearing and should have a written copy of their comments for submittal.

Documents related to the proposed regulation are available on the MP&M web site (<http://www.epa.gov/ost/guide/mpm/rule.html>).

If you wish to submit written comments on the proposed MP&M rule, the comment period closes on May 3, 2001. Please see the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 425; January 3, 2001) for information on "How to Submit Comments."

Geoffrey H. Grubbs,

Director, Office of Science and Technology.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 51

[CC Docket No. 98-147; CC Docket No. 96-98; FCC 01-26]

Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability and Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document clarifies the Commission's rules with regard to an incumbent local exchange carrier's (LEC) obligation to provide line sharing in those instances in which the loop is serviced by a remote terminal, and seeks