

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 August 9, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), 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). If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of October 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Victor Nerses,

Sr. Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 01-26278 Filed 10-17-01; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NUREG-1748, Draft Report]

Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated With NMSS Programs; Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing, for public comment, the availability of a draft document "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs" (NUREG-1748). This document provides guidance for the planning and implementation of National Environmental Policy Act requirements for all non-reactor facilities, e.g., those which fabricate nuclear fuel, dispose high-level radioactive waste, fabricate sources, etc. The guidance is intended for NRC staff, licensees/applicants, and

the public. The NRC is seeking public comment in order to receive feedback from the widest range of interested parties and to ensure that all information relevant to developing the document is available to the NRC staff. This document is being issued for interim use and comment. The NRC will review public comments received on the draft document. Suggested changes will be incorporated, where appropriate, in response to those comments.

DATES: Comments received by September 30, 2002, will be considered. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practical.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public are invited and encouraged to submit comments to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Comments may also be sent electronically to nmssnepa@nrc.gov.

NUREG-1748 is available for inspection and copying for a fee at the Commission's Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web Site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

A free single copy of NUREG-1748 will be made available to interested parties until the supply is exhausted. Such copies may be requested by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Distribution Services, Washington, DC 20555-0001 or submitting an e-mail to distribution@nrc.gov. NUREG-1748 is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/SR1748/index.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Either of the following: Matt Blevins, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T7-J8, Washington, DC 20555, Phone Number: (301) 415-7684, Email: mxnb6@nrc.gov; or Melanie Wong, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T7-J8, Washington, DC 20555, Phone Number: (301) 415-6262, Email: mcw@nrc.gov. Please email comments to nmssnepa@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires Federal agencies, as part of their decision-making process, to consider the environmental impacts of actions under their jurisdiction. Both the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

(NRC) have promulgated regulations to implement NEPA requirements. CEQ regulations are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR parts 1500 to 1508, and NRC requirements are provided in 10 CFR part 51.

To ensure consistent treatment of NEPA requirements throughout the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS), the Environmental and Performance Assessment Branch (EPAB) has produced a guidance document (NUREG-1748) which provides general procedures for determining the level of NEPA review and documentation required for the environmental review of licensing actions undertaken by the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). Such licensing actions encompass fuel cycle, spent nuclear fuel storage, radioactive waste disposal, uranium recovery, decommissioning, and other nuclear materials sites. Divisions within NMSS and their regional counterparts may have supplemental guidance that is specific to facilities they regulate. Although the main focus of this guidance is the NRC staff's environmental review process, the guidance also contains related information which applicants and licensees may find useful. Chapter 1 provides a summary and overview of the guidance. This chapter briefly discusses whether an applicant or licensee's request is a categorical exclusion or whether the staff needs to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), early planning for an EA or EIS and describes methods of using previous environmental analyses related to the proposed action. Chapter 2 discusses categorical exclusions and the basis of their use. Chapter 3 discusses the EA process, including preparation and content of the EA, agencies to be consulted, and preparation of the Finding of No Significant Impact. Chapter 4 discusses the process of preparing an EIS, from developing a project plan, through scoping, consultations and public meetings, to preparing the Record of Decision. Chapter 5 discusses the content of the EIS, and Chapter 6 discusses environmental information that should be considered by applicants and licensees in preparing environmental reports.

Commentors are encouraged to submit their written comments to the addresses listed above. To ensure efficient and complete comment resolution, commentors are requested to reference the page number and the line number of

the document to which the comment applies.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of October, 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas H. Essig,

Chief, Environmental and Performance Assessment Branch, Division of Waste Management, NMSS.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Radionuclide Transport in the Environment: Draft Research Program Plan

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

Background: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research is preparing a research program plan on radionuclide transport in the environment and is seeking public comments on the plan. The radionuclide transport research program is intended to provide data and computational tools to assess the effect on public health and safety and the environment from nuclear materials that may enter the environment from NRC-licensed activities. The technical issues examined include source-term characterization; the effectiveness of engineered and natural containment systems surrounding the radioactive material; multi-phase flow of water, including episodic infiltration, into and through the environment; the transport of radioactive material through the geosphere; the transport of radioactive material through the biosphere; and estimating exposures of members of the public to radiation from these materials. Results from the radionuclide transport research program are intended to be generically applicable to NRC licensing activities including the decommissioning of facilities, disposal of uranium mill tailings, low-level radioactive waste disposal, and high-level radioactive waste disposal. This plan will present the basis for the radionuclide transport research program, describe the key elements of the program, describe how research priorities are set, and present a list of proposed research projects.

Solicitation of Comments: The NRC seeks comments on the plan and is especially interested in comments on the research topics proposed in Chapter

5. Suggestions for new research not specified in Chapter 5 are welcome.

Comment Period: The NRC will consider all written comments received before November 30, 2001. Comments received after November 30, 2001, will be considered if time permits. Comments should be addressed to the contact listed below.

Availability: An electronic version of the plan is available in Adobe Portable Document Format at <http://www.nrc.gov/RES/nrc.html> and can be read with Adobe Acrobat Reader software, available at no cost from <http://www.adobe.com>. Hard and electronic copies are available from the contact listed below.

CONTACT: Dr. John D. Randall, Mail Stop T9F31, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, telephone (301) 415-6192, e-mail jdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of October 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cheryl A. Trotter,

Chief, Radiation Protection, Environmental Risk and Waste Management Branch, Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 01-26280 Filed 10-17-01; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 25209; 812-12594]

American International Group, et al.; Notice of Application

October 12, 2001.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission").

ACTION: Notice of an application under section 17(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") for an exemption from section 17(a) of the Act.

Summary of Application: Applicants request an order to permit certain series of registered open-end management investment companies to acquire all of the assets and liabilities of certain corresponding series of another registered open-end management investment company. Because of certain affiliations, applicants may not rely on rule 17a-8 under the Act.

Applicants: American International Group, Inc. ("AIG"), North American Funds ("NA Trust"), SunAmerica Equity Funds ("Equity Trust"), SunAmerica Income Funds ("Income Trust"), SunAmerica Money Market

Funds, Inc. ("Money Market Corp."), SunAmerica Style Select Series, Inc. ("Style Select Series"), SunAmerica Strategic Investment Series, Inc. ("Strategic Investment Series"), The Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company ("VALIC"), American General Corporation ("American General"), and Sun America Asset Management Corp. (SAAMCo).

Filing Dates: The application was filed on August 9, 2001. Applicants have agreed to file an amendment during the notice period, the substance of which is reflected in this notice.

Hearing or Notification of Hearing: An order granting the application will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the Commission's Secretary and serving applicants with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. on November 6, 2001, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the Commission's Secretary.

ADDRESSES: Secretary, Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609; Applicants, c/o Margery K. Neale, Esq., Shearman & Sterling, 599 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022-6069.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lidian Pereira, Senior Counsel, at (202) 942-0524 or Mary Kay Frech, Branch Chief, at (202) 952-0564 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the Commission's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0102 (telephone (202) 942-8090).

Applicants' Representations

1. NA Trust, a business trust organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is registered under the Act as an open-end management investment company. NA Trust offers twenty-four series ("NA Funds"), seventeen of which are involved in the proposed transactions for which exemptive relief is sought,