

Environmental Report for license renewal.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to allow continued operation of the UCINRF in order to continue education, training, research and development using neutrons and radioisotopes for experimental purposes beyond the current term of the license.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The research reactor is on the campus of the University of California, Irvine in Rowland Hall. Rowland Hall has research and teaching laboratories, lecture halls, classrooms, offices and workshops. It is surrounded by similar facilities in the immediate area.

The UCINRF is authorized by a NRC license to operate at steady-state thermal power levels up to a maximum of 250 kilowatts (KW). The reactor can also be operated in a pulse mode with reactivity addition of up to \$3 in a short period from power levels of 1 KW or less. The construction permit was issued on May 5, 1969, and the operating license was issued on November 24, 1969. The reactor has operated less than 218 effective full-power days over the approximate 30-year license period as indicated in SAR Section 1.3.2. Facility modifications have been minor as, outlined in the SAR Section 1.4. The licensee has not indicated any plans to significantly change the design or the level of usage. Since initial operation, the gaseous Argon-41 radiological release has been conservatively estimated to be less than 5.9×10^9 becquerels per year (0.160 curies per year). Average concentrations of Argon-41 were conservatively estimated by the licensee as 2.4×10^{-9} microcuries/milliliter. This concentration is well below the 10 CFR 20 Appendix B Table 2 limit of 1.0×10^{-8} microcuries/milliliter. Since 1992, the facility has had no radiological liquid or solid radiological releases. Material has been stored as required. Releases of radioactive material have been transferred and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the licensee's byproduct license. Any necessary releases will be similarly treated. Currently, there are no plans to change any operating or radiological release practices or characteristics of the reactor during the license renewal period.

The NRC concludes that conditions are not expected to change and that the radiological effects of the continued operation will continue to be minimal. The radiological exposures for facility

operations have been within regulatory limits and should continue to remain so.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

As for potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, no significant non-radiological environmental impacts and associated with the proposed action.

In addition, the environmental impact associated with operation of research reactors has been generically evaluated by the staff and is discussed in the attached generic evaluation. This evaluation concludes that no significant environmental impact is associated with the operation of research reactors licensed to operate at power levels up to and including 2 megawatts thermal. We have determined that this generic evaluation is applicable to operation of the UCINRF and that there are no special or unique features that would preclude reliance on the generic evaluation.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The alternative to the proposed action for the research reactor facility is to deny the application. If the NRC denied license renewal, UCINRF operations would stop and decommissioning would be required with, likely, a small impact on the environment. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the safety analysis and evaluation for construction permit issuance and operating license issued in 1969.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

On July 25, 2000, the staff consulted with the California Department of Health Official, Steve Hsu, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State officials had no comment.

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 October 18, 1999, as amended on April 24, and June 2, 2000. A hard copy is available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555. Publicly available records will also 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 25th day of August 2000.

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.

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER AND CONSERVATION PLANNING COUNCIL

Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

August 21, 2000.

AGENCY: Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council (Northwest Power Planning Council or Council).

ACTION: Proposed amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (the Northwest Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 839, *et seq.*) the Council invites comments on proposed amendments to its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (program), Council document 2000-14.

Background

In January 2000, the Council formally requested recommendations for amendments to the program under the Northwest Power Act. The proposed amendments are based on the recommendations that were submitted to the Council by fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes and others earlier

this year in response to this request. Copies of the recommendations were distributed to interested parties earlier in this process, and are available from the Council on request (Council document 2000-10).

The Council will accept written public comment on the proposed amendments (Council document 2000-14) until September 22, 2000, and will hold public hearings to take written and oral comments in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington on the following schedule:

August 30

Portland OR—5 p.m., Council central offices, 851 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, OR

September 5

Vancouver, WA—6 p.m., Water Resources Education Center, Bruce E. Hagensen Room, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98668

September 6

Astoria, OR—5 p.m., Duncan Law Seafood Consumer Center (503-338-6523 (Eric)), 2021 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR 97103

September 12

Idaho Falls, ID—6 p.m., West Coast—Idaho Falls (formerly Cavanaughs), 475 River Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID

September 13

Boise, ID—6 p.m., Joe R. Williams Bldg., (Hall of Mirrors), 700 W. State Street, Boise, ID 83702

September 18

Lewiston, ID—6 p.m., Red Lion, 621 21st, Lewiston, ID 83501

September 18

Kalispell, MT—7 p.m., West Coast Hotels (formerly Cavanaughs), McDonald/Swift Current Rooms, Kalispell Center, 20 N. Main Street, Kalispell, MT

September 19

Spokane, WA—5 p.m., Ridpath Hotel, 515 West Sprague, Spokane, WA

September 21

Hermiston, OR—5 p.m., Convention/Community Center, Rotary/Altrusa Room, Hermiston, OR

The Council expects to make final decisions on proposed amendments, beginning on October 11, 2000. At the end of the process, the Council will make findings required by the Northwest Power Act regarding any recommendations the Council rejects. The Council wishes to emphasize that it may adopt or reject any of these proposed amendments after it has received public comments, and comment may be directed to any of them.

Request for Comments

You are invited to comment on proposed amendments by 5 p.m. on

September 22, 2000. Please label comments "2000 Fish and Wildlife Program 2000-14" and submit them to Mark Walker, Director of Public Affairs at 851 S.W. 6th Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204 or submit them to the Council via e-mail at programcomments@nwppc.org. The Council may schedule additional public consultations if necessary on the proposed amendments between September 22, 2000, and October 2, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For a full copy of the proposed amendments (request Council document 2000-14) or for further information, please contact the Council's Public Affairs Division, 851 S.W. 6th Avenue; Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204 or (503) 222-5161, toll free 1-800-452-5161, or our web site of www.nwppc.org. Copies of amendment recommendations previously submitted to the Council (Council document 2000-10) are also available on request.

Stephen L. Crow,
Executive Director.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request for Reclearance of a Revised Information Collection: SF 3104 and SF 3104B

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for reclearance of a revised information collection. SF 3104, Application for Death Benefits/Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS), is used by persons applying for death benefits which may be payable under FERS because of the death of an employee, former employee, or retiree who was covered by FERS at the time of his/her death or separation from Federal Service. SF 3104B, Documentation and Elections in Support of Application for Death Benefits when Deceased was an Employee at the Time of Death, is used by applicants for death benefits under FERS if the deceased was a Federal employee at the time of death.

It is estimated that approximately 4,873 SF 3104s will be processed annually. This form requires approximately 60 minutes to complete.

An annual burden of 4,873 hours is estimated. Approximately 3,188 SF 3104Bs are expected to be processed annually. It is estimated that the form requires approximately 60 minutes to complete. An annual burden of 3,188 hours is estimated. The total annual burden is 8,061.

For copies of this proposal, contact Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358, or E-mail to mbtoomey@opm.gov

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before October 2, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments to—

John C. Crawford, Chief, FERS Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3313, Washington, DC 20415

and
Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer, Office of Information & Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management & Budget, New Executive Office Building, NW, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503

*For Information Regarding
Administrative Coordination Contact:*
Donna G. Lease, Team Leader, Forms Analysis and Design, (202) 606-0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, which provides opportunity for public comment on new or revised data collections, the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) publishes periodic summaries of proposed data collections.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the RRB's estimate of the burden of the collection of the information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden related to the collection of information on