

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Russell E. Chazell,
Advisory Committee Management Officer.
 [FR Doc. 2018-01139 Filed 1-22-18; 8:45 am]
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 72-1014, 72-59, and 50-271; NRC-2017-0134]

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering an exemption request from Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) to allow the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS) to use a new regionalized loading pattern, load fuel that has been cooled for at least 2 years, and establish a per-cell maximum average burnup limit at 65,000 megawatt days per metric ton of uranium (MWD/MTU) in HI-STORM 100 multi-purpose canister (MPC)-68M using Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1014, Amendment No. 10. The NRC prepared an environmental assessment (EA) documenting its finding. The NRC concluded that the proposed action would have no significant environmental impact. Accordingly, the NRC staff is issuing a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) associated with the proposed exemption.

DATES: The EA and FONSI referenced in this document are available on January 23, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2017-0134 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking website:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2017-0134. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System*

(ADAMS): You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "ADAMS Public Documents" and then select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this document (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

- *NRC's PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yen-Ju Chen, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; telephone: 301-415-1018; email: Yen-ju.Chen@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The NRC is reviewing an exemption request from ENO, dated May 16, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17142A358), and supplemented by letters dated September 7, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17255A236) and December 7, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17346A685). ENO is requesting an exemption from the requirements of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) §§ 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.214, and the portion of 72.212(b)(11) that requires compliance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1014, for spent fuel storage at the VYNPS independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI).

Specifically, ENO is requesting an exemption from certain requirements in Amendment No. 10 of the Holtec International (Holtec) CoC No. 1014 for the HI-STORM 100 Cask System (ADAMS Accession No. ML16144A177) to allow VYNPS to use a new regionalized loading pattern as described in Figure 2.4-1 of the exemption request, to load fuel that has been cooled for at least 2 years, and to establish a per-cell maximum average burnup limit at 65,000 megawatt days per metric ton of uranium (MWD/MTU) in a HI-STORM 100 MPC-68M canister. This would allow VYNPS to load fuel assemblies which have not been cooled for at least 3 years, as approved in the

current CoC, but have been cooled for 2 years, into the MPC-68M.

II. Environmental Assessment Summary

Under the requirements of §§ 51.21 and 51.30(a), the NRC staff developed an EA (ADAMS Accession No. ML17249A160) to evaluate the proposed action, which is for the NRC to grant an exemption to ENO to allow the use of a new regionalized loading pattern as described in Figure 2.4-1 of the exemption request, to load fuel that has been cooled for at least 2 years, and to establish a per-cell maximum average burnup limit at 65,000 MWD/MTU in a HI-STORM 100 MPC-68M at the VYNPS site.

The EA defines the NRC's proposed action (*i.e.*, to grant ENO's exemption request per 10 CFR 72.7) and the purpose of and need for the proposed action. Evaluations of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action are presented, followed by the NRC's conclusion.

This EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts of granting the exemption to allow the use of a new regionalized loading pattern as described in Figure 2.4-1 of the exemption request, loading fuel that has been cooled for at least 2 years, and establishing a per-cell maximum average burnup limit at 65,000 MWD/MTU in a HI-STORM 100 MPC-68M at the VYNPS site. The potential environmental impact of using NRC-approved storage casks was initially analyzed in the EA for the rulemaking to provide for the storage of spent fuel under a general license on July 18, 1990 (55 FR 29181). The EA for using the HI-STORM 100, Amendment No. 10, cask system (81 FR 13265) tiers off of the EA for the 1990 final rule.

NRC staff finds that this exemption request is bounded by CoC No. 1014, Amendment No. 10, and that there will be no significant environmental impacts of the proposed action. The proposed action does not change the types or quantities of effluents that may be released offsite, and it does not increase occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. There is no change to the non-radiological effluents. The proposed action will take place within the site boundary, and does not have other environmental impacts. Thus, the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the environmental impacts of the proposed

action are no greater than those described in the EA for the rulemaking to add the HI-STORM 100, Amendment No. 10, cask system to 10 CFR 72.214.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The NRC staff has prepared an EA and associated FONSI in support of the proposed action. The NRC staff has concluded that the proposed action, for the NRC to grant the exemption requested for VYNPS, allowing the use of a new regionalized loading pattern as described in Figure 2.4-1 of the exemption request, and to load fuel that has been cooled for at least 2 years, and establishing a per-cell maximum average burnup limit at 65,000 MWD/MTU in a HI-STORM 100 MPC-68M, will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment, and that the proposed action is the preferred alternative. The environmental impacts are bounded by the previous NRC EA for the rulemaking to add the HI-STORM 100, Amendment No. 10, cask system to 10 CFR 72.214.

The NRC provided the Vermont Department of Health with a draft copy of the EA for a 30-day review on October 16, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17289A422).

The NRC staff has determined that this exemption would have no impact on historic and cultural resources or ecological resources and therefore no consultations are necessary under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, respectively.

Therefore, the NRC finds that there are no significant environmental impacts from the proposed action, and that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not warranted. Accordingly, the NRC has determined that a FONSI is appropriate.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of January, 2018.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Meraj Rahimi,

*Acting Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch,
Division of Spent Fuel Management, Office
of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 2018-01176 Filed 1-22-18; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Notice announcing updated penalty inflation adjustments for civil monetary penalties for 2018.

SUMMARY: As required by Section 701 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, entitled the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, the Railroad Retirement Board (Board) hereby publishes its 2018 annual adjustment of civil penalties for inflation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marguerite P. Dadabo, Assistant General Counsel, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2092, (312) 751-4945, TTD (312) 751-4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 701 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, Public Law 114-74 (Nov. 2, 2015), entitled the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (the 2015 Act), amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) (Inflation Adjustment Act) to require agencies to publish regulations adjusting the amount of civil monetary penalties provided by law within the jurisdiction of the agency not later than July 1, 2016, and annual adjustments thereafter.

For the 2018 annual adjustment for inflation of the maximum civil penalty under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, the Board applies the formula provided by the 2015 Act and the Board's regulations at title 20, Code of Federal Regulations, part 356. In accordance with the 2015 Act, the amount of the adjustment is based on the percent increase between the CPI-U for the month of October preceding the date of the adjustment and the CPI-U for the October one year prior to the October immediately preceding the date of the adjustment. If there is no increase, there is no adjustment of civil penalties. The percent increase between the CPI-U for October 2017 and October 2016, as provided by Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-18-03 (December 15, 2017) is 1.02041 percent. Therefore, the new maximum penalty under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act is \$11,181 (the 2017 maximum penalty of \$10,957 multiplied by 1.02041, rounded to the nearest dollar). The new minimum penalty under the False Claims Act is \$11,181 (the 2017 minimum penalty of \$10,957 multiplied by 1.02041, rounded to the nearest dollar), and the new maximum penalty is \$22,363 (the 2017 maximum penalty of \$21,916 multiplied by 1.02041, rounded to the nearest dollar). The adjustments in penalties will be effective January 23, 2018.

For The Board.

Dated: January 18, 2018.

Martha P. Rico,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 2018-01144 Filed 1-22-18; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

National Nanotechnology Initiative Meetings

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The National Nanotechnology Coordination Office (NNCO), on behalf of the Nanoscale Science, Engineering, and Technology (NSET) Subcommittee of the Committee on Technology, National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), will facilitate stakeholder discussion of targeted nanotechnology topics through workshops, webinars, and Community of Interest meetings between the publication date of this Notice and December 31, 2018.

DATES: The NNCO will hold one or more workshops, webinars, networks, and Community of Interest teleconferences between the publication date of this Notice and December 31, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Attendance information, including addresses, will be posted on nano.gov. For information about upcoming workshops and webinars, please visit <http://www.nano.gov/meetings-workshops> and <http://www.nano.gov/PublicWebinars>. For more information on the Communities of Interest, please visit <http://www.nano.gov/Communities>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding this Notice, please contact Marlowe Newman at info@nnco.nano.gov or (202) 517-1050 ext. 107.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These public meetings address the charge in the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act for NNCO to provide "for public input and outreach . . . by the convening of regular and ongoing public discussions". Workshop and webinar topics may include technical subjects; environmental, health, and safety issues related to nanomaterials (nanoEHS); business case studies; or other areas of potential interest to the nanotechnology community. Areas of focus for the Communities of Interest may include research on nanoEHS; nanotechnology education; nanomedicine; nanomanufacturing; or other areas of potential interest to the nanotechnology community. For example, the