

**PART 72—LICENSING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT STORAGE OF SPENT  
NUCLEAR FUEL AND HIGH-LEVEL  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

1. The authority citation for Part 72 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** Secs. 51, 53, 57, 62, 63, 65, 69, 81, 161, 182, 183, 184, 186, 187, 189, 68 Stat. 929, 930, 932, 933, 934, 935, 948, 953, 954, 955, as amended, sec. 234, 83 Stat. 444, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2071, 2073, 2077, 2092, 2093, 2095, 2099, 2111, 2201, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2282); sec. 274, Pub. L. 86–373, 73 Stat. 688, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2021); sec. 201, as amended, 202, 206, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended, 1244, 1246 (42 U.S.C. 5841, 5842, 5846); Pub. L. 95–601, sec. 10, 92 Stat. 2951 as amended by Pub. L. 10d—48b, sec. 7902, 10b Stat. 31b3 (42 U.S.C. 5851); sec. 102, Pub. L. 91–190, 83 Stat. 853 (42 U.S.C. 4332); secs. 131, 132, 133, 135, 137, 141, Pub. L. 97–425, 96 Stat. 2229, 2230, 2232, 2241, sec. 148, Pub. L. 100–203, 101 Stat. 1330–235 (42 U.S.C. 10151, 10152, 10153, 10155, 10157, 10161, 10168).

Section 72.44(g) also issued under secs. 142(b) and 148(c), (d), Pub. L. 100–203, 101 Stat. 1330–232, 1330–236 (42 U.S.C. 10162(b), 10168(c),(d)). Section 72.46 also issued under sec. 189, 68 Stat. 955 (42 U.S.C. 2239); sec. 134, Pub. L. 97–425, 96 Stat. 2230 (42 U.S.C. 10154). Section 72.96(d) also issued under sec. 145(g), Pub. L. 100–203, 101 Stat. 1330–235 (42 U.S.C. 10165(g)). Subpart J also issued under secs. 2(2), 2(15), 2(19), 117(a), 141(h), Pub. L. 97–425, 96 Stat. 2202, 2203, 2204, 2222, 2244, (42 U.S.C. 10101, 10137(a), 10161(h)). Subparts K and L are also issued under sec. 133, 98 Stat. 2230 (42 U.S.C. 10153) and sec. 218(a), 96 Stat. 2252 (42 U.S.C. 10198).

2. In § 72.214, Certificate of Compliance (CoC) 1004 is revised to read as follows:

**§ 72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Certificate Number: 1004.

Initial Certificate Effective Date: January 23, 1995.

Amendment No. 1 Effective Date: April 27, 2000.

Amendment No. 2 Effective Date: September 5, 2000.

SAR Submitted by: Transnuclear West, Inc.

SAR Title: Transnuclear West, Inc., “Final Safety Analysis Report for the Standardized NUHOMS® Horizontal Modular Storage System for Irradiated Nuclear Fuel”.

Docket Number: 72–1004.

Certificate Expiration Date: January 23, 2015.

Model Number: Standardized NUHOMS®–24P and NUHOMS®–52B.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of May, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
**William D. Travers,**  
*Executive Director for Operations.*  
[FR Doc. 00–15543 Filed 6–21–00; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION**

**10 CFR Part 72**

**RIN 3150–AG55**

**List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage  
Casks: VSC–24 Revision**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations revising the Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates (PSNA) VSC–24 cask system listing within the “List of approved spent fuel storage casks” to include Amendment No. 2 to the Certificate of Compliance (CoC). Amendment No. 2 will revise the Technical Specifications and CoC regarding welding and nondestructive examination of welds, the method for determining cask drain time during loading, the minimum temperature for moving the loaded multi-assembly sealed basket (MSB), artificial thermal loads other than spent fuel that may be used to obtain temperature data, and the maximum permissible air outlet temperature. In addition, the amendment includes changes to the Technical Specifications and CoC to correct typographical errors and to make other minor clarifications and changes. This amendment will allow the holders of power reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the VSC–24 cask system, as amended, under a general license.

**DATES:** Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before July 24, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001. Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

Deliver comments to 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

You may also provide comments via the NRC’s interactive rulemaking website (<http://ruleforumllnl.gov>). This site provides the capability to upload comments as files (any format), if your web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking website, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, (301) 415–5905 (e-mail: [cag@nrc.gov](mailto:cag@nrc.gov)).

Copies of any comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gordon Gundersen, telephone (301) 415–6195, e-mail, [GEG1@nrc.gov](mailto:GEG1@nrc.gov) of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** For additional information see the Direct Final Rule published in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

**Procedural Background**

Because NRC considers this action noncontroversial and routine, we are publishing this proposed rule concurrently as a direct final rule. The direct final rule will become effective on September 5, 2000. However, if the NRC receives significant adverse comments on the direct final rule by July 24, 2000, then the NRC will publish a notice to withdraw the direct final rule. If the direct final rule is withdrawn, the NRC will address the comments received in response to the proposed revisions in a subsequent final rule. Absent significant modifications to the proposed revisions requiring republication, the NRC will not initiate a second comment period for this action in the event the direct final rule is withdrawn.

**List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 72**

Criminal penalties, Manpower training programs, Nuclear materials, Occupational safety and health, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Spent fuel.

For the reasons set out in the preamble and under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended; and 5 U.S.C. 553; the NRC is proposing to adopt the following amendments to 10 CFR part 72.

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L. 86-373, 73 Stat. 688, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2021); sec. 201, as amended, 202, 206, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended, 1244, 1246 (42 U.S.C. 5841, 5842, 5846); Pub. L. 95-601, sec. 10, 92 Stat. 2951 as amended by Pub. L. 10d-48b, sec. 7902, 10b Stat. 31b3 (42 U.S.C. 5851); sec. 102, Pub. L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 853 (42 U.S.C. 4332); secs. 131, 132, 133, 135, 137, 141, Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2229, 2230, 2232, 2241, sec. 148, Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-235 (42 U.S.C. 10151, 10152, 10153, 10155, 10157, 10161, 10168).

Section 72.44(g) also issued under secs. 142(b) and 148(c), (d), Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-232, 1330-236 (42 U.S.C. 10162(b), 10168(c), (d)). Section 72.46 also issued under sec. 189, 68 Stat. 955 (42 U.S.C. 2239); sec. 134, Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2230 (42 U.S.C. 10154). Section 72.96(d) also issued under sec. 145(g), Pub. L. 100-203, 101 Stat. 1330-235 (42 U.S.C. 10165(g)). Subpart J also issued under secs. 2(2), 2(15), 2(19), 117(a), 141(h), Pub. L. 97-425, 96 Stat. 2202, 2203, 2204, 2222, 2244, (42 U.S.C. 10101, 10137(a), 10161(h)). Subparts K and L are also issued under sec. 133, 98 Stat. 2230 (42 U.S.C. 10153) and sec. 218(a), 96 Stat. 2252 (42 U.S.C. 10198).

2. Section 72.214, Certificate of Compliance (CoC) 1007 is revised to read as follows:

**§ 72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Certificate Number: 1007.

Initial Certificate Effective Date: May 7, 1993.

Amendment Number 1 Effective Date: May 30, 2000.

Amendment Number 2 Effective Date: September 5, 2000.

SAR Submitted by: Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates.

SAR Title: Final Safety Analysis Report for the Ventilated Storage Cask System.

Docket Number: 72-1007.

Certificate Expiration Date: May 7, 2013.

Model Number: VSC-24.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of May, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**William D. Travers,**

*Executive Director for Operations.*

[FR Doc. 00-15541 Filed 6-21-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### 20 CFR Parts 404 and 416

#### [Regulations Nos. 4 and 16]

RIN 0960-AF17

#### Administrative Review Process; Prehearing and Posthearing Conferences

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** We are proposing to amend a portion of our regulations on social security and supplemental security income which currently state that an administrative law judge (ALJ) may decide to hold a prehearing or posthearing conference in your case. We are proposing to amend these rules to provide that we may designate an attorney adviser in our Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) to conduct a formal prehearing or posthearing conference when requested by an ALJ. We are also proposing to amend our rules to include procedures to govern the informal prehearing conference that we may hold with you. We are proposing these rules in order to improve our hearings process by standardizing and increasing the efficiency of our procedures for holding prehearing and posthearing conferences.

**DATES:** To be sure your comments are considered, we must receive them no later than August 21, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 17703, Baltimore, MD 21235-7703; sent by telefax to (410) 966-2830; sent by e-mail to [regulations@ssa.gov](mailto:regulations@ssa.gov); or delivered to the Office of Process and Innovation Management, Social Security Administration, L2109 West Low Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. on regular business days. Comments received may be inspected during these same hours by making arrangements with the contact person shown below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Georgia E. Myers, Regulations Officer, Office of Process and Innovation Management, Social Security Administration, L2109 West Low Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 965-3632 or TTY 1-800-988-5906, for information about this notice. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 or TTY 1-800-325-0778.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

We generally use a four step administrative review process to decide claims for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) and for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under title XVI of the Act. If you are not satisfied with our initial determination, you may request that we reconsider it. If you are not satisfied with our reconsidered determination, you may request an ALJ hearing. If you are not satisfied with the ALJ's decision, you may request that the Appeals Council review it. Generally, you must complete these steps and receive our final decision before you may request judicial review of the decision in the Federal courts.

On August 30, 1999, we announced a prototype involving a combination of modifications to the procedures we follow in determining disability (64 FR 47218). At that time, we also announced that we were making several changes to improve the hearing step of the administrative review process. We noted that we were going to streamline case processing, make structural changes in the management organization of our hearing offices, and make improvements in our automation and data collection. We also noted that we would implement a "national workflow model" that combines prehearing activities, a standardized prehearing conference, and processing-time benchmarks for various tasks (64 FR at 47219).

We are making changes in the hearing process as part of our Hearings Process Improvement (HPI) initiative. Under HPI, we are trying to make our hearing process more timely, more efficient and more customer-focused. The report on this initiative is available as an SSA publication, "The Hearings Process Improvement Initiative: Delivering Better Service for the 21st Century" (SSA Pub. No. 01-016). We also made this report available on our Internet site at <http://www.ssa.gov/reports/hpi>.

Under our HPI initiative, we distinguish between informal and formal prehearing conferences. Informal conferences will be a relatively routine part of our prehearing activities. We will hold these conferences to develop additional evidence and information that may be needed to ensure that cases are ready for a hearing when they are assigned to an ALJ. We will hold formal prehearing conferences more rarely and only at the request of an ALJ.

We currently conduct developmental activities similar to those involved in the informal conferences under the Commissioner's general, administrative