

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff reviewed NMC's exemption request and will issue a safety evaluation documenting its review. The review found that the Division 1 and Division 2 components of the core spray, residual heat removal (RHR) cooling, suppression pool level transmitter, and suppression pool temperature monitoring systems (SPOTMOS) are separated in Fire Area IV/Fire Zone 1F by at least 75 feet. The NRC staff concluded that the area wide automatic fire suppression is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of appendix R, section III.G.2.b, for the suppression pool torus area at Monticello considering the following:

- The minimal amount of fixed and transient combustibles present;
- The separation between redundant trains of core spray valves, RHR cooling valves, and suppression pool level transmitters;
- Smoke and temperature detector provisions;
- The ability of SPOTMOS to continue to operate with at least one RTD on one train in the operable-but-degraded mode for any fire in fire zone 1F that involved both conduit trains.

The details of the NRC staff's safety evaluation will be provided as part of the letter to NMC transmitting the NRC staff's decision on the exemption request.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released off site, 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.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application

would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

The action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Monticello dated November 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On July 22, 2004, the NRC staff consulted with the Minnesota State official, Nancy Campbell of the Department of Commerce, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

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 NMC's exemption request of September 15, 2003, as supplemented February 24, 2004. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or (301) 415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of July 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L. Raghavan,

*Chief, Section 1, Project Directorate III,
Division of Licensing Project Management,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon written request, Copies Available
From: Securities and Exchange
Commission, Office of Filings and
Information Services, Washington, DC
20549.

Extension: Rule 11Ac1-4; SEC File No.
270-405; OMB Control No. 3235-
0462.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 11Ac1-4 [17 CFR 240.11Ac1-4] under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires specialists and market makers to publicly display a customer limit order when that limit order is priced superior to the quote that is currently being displayed by the specialist or market maker. Customer limit orders that match the bid or offer being displayed by the specialist or market maker must also be displayed if the limit order price matches the national best bid or offer. It is estimated that approximately 585 broker and dealer respondents incur an aggregate burden of 228,735 hours per year to comply with this rule.

Rule 11Ac1-4 does not contain record retention requirements. Compliance with the rule is mandatory. Responses are not confidential. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in

writing within 60 days of this publication.

Direct your written comments to R. Corey Booth, Director/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: July 26, 2004.

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-50077; File No. PCAOB-2004-06]

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule 3101, Certain Terms Used in Auditing and Related Professional Practice Standards

July 26, 2004.

Pursuant to section 107(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the "Act"), notice is hereby given that on June 18, 2004, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the "Board" or the "PCAOB") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission" or "SEC") the proposed rule described in items I and II below, which items have been prepared by the Board and are presented here in the form submitted by the Board. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule from interested persons.

I. Board's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule

On June 9, 2004, the Board adopted Rule 3101, *Certain Terms Used in Auditing and Related Professional Practice Standards* ("the proposed rule"). The proposed rule text is set out as follows:

RULES OF THE BOARD

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 1001. Definitions of Terms Employed in Rules.

(a)(xii) Auditor

The term "auditor" means both public accounting firms registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and associated persons thereof.

SECTION 3. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Part 1—General Requirements

Rule 3101. Certain Terms Used in Auditing and Related Professional Practice Standards

(a) The Board's auditing and related professional practice standards use certain terms set forth in this rule to describe the degree of responsibility that the standards impose on auditors.

(1) Unconditional Responsibility: The words "must," "shall," and "is required" indicate unconditional responsibilities. The auditor must fulfill responsibilities of this type in all cases in which the circumstances exist to which the requirement applies. Failure to discharge an unconditional responsibility is a violation of the relevant standard and Rule 3100.

(2) Presumptively Mandatory Responsibility: The word "should" indicates responsibilities that are presumptively mandatory. The auditor must comply with requirements of this type specified in the Board's standards unless the auditor demonstrates that alternative actions he or she followed in the circumstances were sufficient to achieve the objectives of the standard. Failure to discharge a presumptively mandatory responsibility is a violation of the relevant standard and Rule 3100 unless the auditor demonstrates that, in the circumstances, compliance with the specified responsibility was not necessary to achieve the objectives of the standard.

Note: In the rare circumstances in which the auditor believes the objectives of the standard can be met by alternative means, the auditor, as part of documenting the planning and performance of the work, must document the information that demonstrates that the objectives were achieved.

(3) Responsibility To Consider: The words "may," "might," "could," and other terms and phrases describe actions and procedures that auditors have a responsibility to consider. Matters described in this fashion require the auditor's attention and understanding. How and whether the auditor implements these matters in the audit will depend on the exercise of professional judgment in the circumstances consistent with the objectives of the standard.

Note: If a Board standard provides that the auditor "should consider" an action or procedure, consideration of the action or procedure is presumptively mandatory, while the action or procedure is not.

(b) The terminology in paragraph (a) of this rule applies to the responsibilities imposed by the auditing and related professional practice standards, including the interim standards adopted in Rules 3200T, 3300T, 3400T, 3500T, and 3600T.

(c) The documentation requirement in paragraph (a)(2) is effective for audits of financial statements or other engagements with respect to fiscal years ending on or after [insert date the later of November 15, 2004, or 30 days after approval of this rule by the Securities and Exchange Commission].

II. Board's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule

In its filing with the Commission, the Board included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in item IV below. The Board has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Board's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule

(a) Purpose.

The Commission understands from the PCAOB staff that Rule 1001(a)(xii) would define the term "auditor" to mean both public accounting firms registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and associated persons thereof. A similar definition was included in PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 1, *References in Auditors' Reports to the Standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board* (approved by the SEC on May 14, 2004) and PCAOB Auditing Standard No. 2, *An Audit of Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Performed in Conjunction with An Audit of Financial Statements* (approved by the SEC on June 17, 2004). Instead of continuing to repeat the definition of this term in future standards, the Board approved the inclusion of this defined term in Rule 1001, *Definitions of Terms Employed in Rules*. Other than its use in these standards, the term "auditor" is not used in the Board's currently effective rules in a context in which this definition would apply. Accordingly, the definition in Rule 1001 does not change the meaning of any currently effective PCAOB rule or standard. Also, while the new definition of "auditor" in Rule 1001 would apply to any auditing and related professional practice standard established by the Board, including a PCAOB standard that amends an interim standard, it would not apply to the auditing and professional standards that the Board adopted as its interim standards in PCAOB Rules 3200T through 3600T. To