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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 72

RIN 3150-AH75

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-UMS Revision 4

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations revising the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listing within the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" to include Amendment No. 4 to Certificate of Compliance (CoC) Number 1015. Amendment No. 4 to the NAC-UMS CoC will modify the cask design by replacing the specific term "zircaloy" with the more generic term "zirconium alloy"; revising the definitions of "operable" and "site specific fuel"; revising vacuum drying pressure and time limits; revising short-term temperature limits and completion times for the heat removal system; clarifying the surface dose rate surveillance; adding a dissolved boron concentration option; deleting a redundant boron concentration administrative control; adding an alternate site-specific design basis earthquake analysis; and incorporating editorial and administrative changes.

DATES: The final rule is effective October 11, 2005, unless significant adverse comments are received by August 24, 2005. A significant adverse comment is a comment where the commenter explains why the rule would be inappropriate, including challenges to the rule's underlying premise or approach, or would be ineffective or unacceptable without a change. If the rule is withdrawn, timely notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods. Please include the following number (RIN 3150-AH75) in the subject line of your comments. Comments on rulemakings submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including personal information such as social security numbers and birth dates in your submission.

Mail comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

E-mail comments to: SECY@nrc.gov. If you do not receive a reply e-mail confirming that we have received your comments, contact us directly at (301) 415-1966. You may also submit comments via the NRC's rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>. Address questions about our rulemaking Web site to Carol Gallagher (301) 415-5905; e-mail cag@nrc.gov. Comments can also be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays (telephone (301) 415-1966).

Fax comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at (301) 415-1101.

Publicly available documents related to this rulemaking may be viewed electronically on the public computers located at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), O-1F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Selected documents, including comments, can be viewed and downloaded electronically via the NRC rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>.

Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC after November 1, 1999, are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. From this site, the public can gain entry into the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. 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, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdrc@nrc.gov. An electronic copy of the proposed CoC, Technical Specifications (TS), and preliminary safety evaluation report (SER) can be found under ADAMS Package Accession No. ML051250544.

CoC No. 1015, the revised TS, the underlying SER for Amendment No. 4, and the Environmental Assessment (EA), are available for inspection at the NRC PDR, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. Single copies of these documents may be obtained from Jayne M. McCausland, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6219, e-mail jmm2@nrc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jayne M. McCausland, telephone (301) 415-6219, e-mail jmm2@nrc.gov, of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 218(a) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPA), requires that "[t]he Secretary [of the Department of Energy (DOE)] shall establish a demonstration program, in cooperation with the private sector, for the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel at civilian nuclear power reactor sites, with the objective of establishing one or more technologies that the [Nuclear Regulatory] Commission may, by rule, approve for use at the sites of civilian nuclear power reactors without, to the maximum extent practicable, the need for additional site-specific approvals by the Commission." Section 133 of the NWPA states, in part, that "[t]he Commission shall, by rule, establish procedures for the licensing of any technology approved by the Commission under Section 218(a) for use at the site of any civilian nuclear power reactor."

To implement this mandate, the NRC approved dry storage of spent nuclear fuel in NRC-approved casks under a general license by publishing a final rule in 10 CFR part 72 entitled, "General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites" (55 FR 29181; July

18, 1990). This rule also established a new subpart L within 10 CFR part 72, entitled "Approval of Spent Fuel Storage Casks" containing procedures and criteria for obtaining NRC approval of spent fuel storage cask designs. The NRC subsequently issued a final rule on October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62581), that approved the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System cask design and added it to the list of NRC-approved cask designs in § 72.214 as CoC No. 1015.

Discussion

On August 10, 2004, and as supplemented on December 23, 2004, and February 17, 2005, the certificate holder, NAC International, Inc. (NAC) submitted an application to the NRC to amend CoC No. 1015 to: (1) Replace the specific term "zircaloy" with the more generic term "zirconium alloy"; (2) revise the definitions of "operable" and "site specific fuel"; (3) revise vacuum drying pressure and time limits; (4) revise short-term temperature limits and completion times for the concrete cask heat removal system; (5) clarify the surface dose rate surveillance frequency; (6) add a dissolved boron concentration option; (7) delete a redundant boron concentration administrative control; (8) add an alternate site-specific design basis earthquake analysis for unbounded site conditions; and (9) incorporate editorial and administrative changes. No other changes to the NAC-UMS cask system design were requested in this application. The NRC staff performed a detailed safety evaluation of the proposed CoC amendment request and found that an acceptable safety margin is maintained. In addition, the NRC staff has determined that there continues to be reasonable assurance that public health and safety and the environment will be adequately protected.

This direct final rule revises the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listing in § 72.214 by adding Amendment No. 4 to CoC No. 1015. The amendment consists of changes to the TS to enhance operations and operational flexibility. The particular TS which are changed are identified in the NRC staff's SER for Amendment No. 4.

The amended NAC-UMS Universal Storage System, when used in accordance with the conditions specified in the CoC, the TS, and NRC regulations, will meet the requirements of part 72; thus, adequate protection of public health and safety will continue to be ensured.

Discussion of Amendments by Section

§ 72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.

Certificate No. 1015 is revised by adding the effective date of Amendment Number 4.

Procedural Background

This rule is limited to the changes contained in Amendment 4 to CoC No. 1015 and does not include other aspects of the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System. The NRC is using the "direct final rule procedure" to issue this amendment because it represents a limited and routine change to an existing CoC that is expected to be noncontroversial. Adequate protection of public health and safety continues to be ensured. The amendment to the rule will become effective on October 11, 2005. However, if the NRC receives significant adverse comments by August 24, 2005, then the NRC will publish a document that withdraws this action and will address the comments received in response to the proposed amendments published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**. A significant adverse comment is a comment where the commenter explains why the rule would be inappropriate, including challenges to the rule's underlying premise or approach, or would be ineffective or unacceptable without a change. A comment is adverse and significant if:

(1) The comment opposes the rule and provides a reason sufficient to require a substantive response in a notice-and-comment process. For example, in a substantive response:

(a) The comment causes the NRC staff to reevaluate (or reconsider) its position or conduct additional analysis;

(b) The comment raises an issue serious enough to warrant a substantive response to clarify or complete the record; or

(c) The comment raises a relevant issue that was not previously addressed or considered by the NRC staff.

(2) The comment proposes a change or an addition to the rule, and it is apparent that the rule would be ineffective or unacceptable without incorporation of the change or addition.

(3) The comment causes the NRC staff to make a change (other than editorial) to the CoC or TS.

These comments will be addressed in a subsequent final rule. The NRC will not initiate a second comment period on this action.

Voluntary Consensus Standards

The National Technology Transfer Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113) requires that

Federal agencies use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies unless the use of such a standard is inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. In this direct final rule, the NRC would revise the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listed in § 72.214 (List of NRC-approved spent fuel storage cask designs). This action does not constitute the establishment of a standard that establishes generally applicable requirements.

Agreement State Compatibility

Under the "Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs" approved by the Commission on June 30, 1997, and published in the **Federal Register** on September 3, 1997 (62 FR 46517), this rule is classified as Compatibility Category "NRC." Compatibility is not required for Category "NRC" regulations. The NRC program elements in this category are those that relate directly to areas of regulation reserved to the NRC by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), or the provisions of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Although an Agreement State may not adopt program elements reserved to NRC, it may wish to inform its licensees of certain requirements via a mechanism that is consistent with the particular State's administrative procedure laws but does not confer regulatory authority on the State.

Plain Language

The Presidential Memorandum dated June 1, 1998, entitled "Plain Language in Government Writing," directed that the Government's writing be in plain language. The NRC requests comments on this direct final rule specifically with respect to the clarity and effectiveness of the language used. Comments should be sent to the address listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** above.

Finding of No Significant Environmental Impact: Availability

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the NRC regulations in subpart A of 10 CFR part 51, the NRC has determined that this rule, if adopted, would not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. The rule would amend the CoC for the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks that power reactor licensees can use to store

spent fuel at reactor sites under a general license. The amendment will: (1) Replace the specific term "zircaloy" with the more generic term "zirconium alloy"; (2) revise the definitions of "operable" and "site Specific fuel"; (3) revise vacuum drying pressure and time limits; (4) revise short-term temperature limits and completion times for the concrete cask heat removal system; (5) clarify the surface dose rate surveillance frequency; (6) add a dissolved boron concentration option; (7) delete a redundant boron concentration administrative control; (8) add an alternate site-specific design basis earthquake analysis for unbounded site conditions; and (9) incorporate editorial and administrative changes. The EA and finding of no significant impact on which this determination is based are available for inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. Single copies of the EA and finding of no significant impact are available from Jayne M. McCausland, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-6219, e-mail jmm2@nrc.gov.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This direct final rule does not contain a new or amended information collection requirement subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). Existing requirements were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Approval Number 3150-0132.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Regulatory Analysis

On July 18, 1990 (55 FR 29181), the NRC issued an amendment to 10 CFR part 72 to provide for the storage of spent nuclear fuel under a general license in cask designs approved by the NRC. Any nuclear power reactor licensee can use NRC-approved cask designs to store spent nuclear fuel if it notifies the NRC in advance, spent fuel is stored under the conditions specified in the cask's CoC, and the conditions of the general license are met. A list of NRC-approved cask designs is contained in § 72.214. On October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62581), the NRC issued an amendment to part 72 that approved the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System by adding it to

the list of NRC-approved cask designs in § 72.214. On August 10, 2004, and as supplemented on December 23, 2004, and February 17, 2005, the certificate holder, NAC, submitted an application to the NRC to amend CoC No. 1015 to: (1) Replace the specific term "zircaloy" with the more generic term "zirconium alloy"; (2) revise the definitions of "operable" and "site specific fuel"; (3) revise vacuum drying pressure and time limits; (4) revise short-term temperature limits and completion times for the concrete cask heat removal system; (5) clarify the surface dose rate surveillance frequency; (6) add a dissolved boron concentration option; (7) delete a redundant boron concentration administrative control; (8) add an alternate site-specific design basis earthquake analysis for unbounded site conditions; and (9) incorporate editorial and administrative changes.

The alternative to this action is to withhold approval of this amended cask system design and issue an exemption to each general license. This alternative would cost both the NRC and the utilities more time and money because each utility would have to pursue an exemption.

Approval of the direct final rule will eliminate this problem and is consistent with previous NRC actions. Further, the direct final rule will have no adverse effect on public health and safety. This direct final rule has no significant identifiable impact or benefit on other Government agencies. Based on this discussion of the benefits and impacts of the alternatives, the NRC concludes that the requirements of the direct final rule are commensurate with the NRC's responsibilities for public health and safety and the common defense and security. No other available alternative is believed to be as satisfactory, and thus, this action is recommended.

Regulatory Flexibility Certification

In accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), the NRC certifies that this rule will not, if issued, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This direct final rule affects only the licensing and operation of nuclear power plants, independent spent fuel storage facilities, and NAC. The companies that own these plants do not fall within the scope of the definition of "small entities" set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act or the Small Business Size Standards set out in regulations issued by the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR part 121.

Backfit Analysis

The NRC has determined that the backfit rule (10 CFR 50.109 or 10 CFR 72.62) does not apply to this direct final rule because this amendment does not involve any provisions that would impose backfits as defined. Therefore, a backfit analysis is not required.

Congressional Review Act

In accordance with the Congressional Review Act of 1996, the NRC has determined that this action is not a major rule and has verified this determination with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 72

Administrative practice and procedure, Criminal penalties, Manpower training programs, Nuclear materials, Occupational safety and health, Penalties, Radiation protection, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Spent fuel, Whistleblowing.

■ 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. 552 and 553; the NRC is adopting the following amendments to 10 CFR part 72.

PART 72—LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL, HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE, AND REACTOR-RELATED GREATER THAN CLASS C 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. 102-486, sec. 7902, 106 Stat. 3123 (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); sec. 1704, 112 Stat. 2750 (44 U.S.C. 3504 note).

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, 2224 (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 1015 is revised to read as follows:

§ 72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.

* * * *

Certificate Number: 1015.
Initial Certificate Effective Date:
November 20, 2000.
Amendment Number 1 Effective Date:
February 20, 2001.
Amendment Number 2 Effective Date:
December 31, 2001.
Amendment Number 3 Effective Date:
March 31, 2004.
Amendment Number 4 Effective Date:
October 11, 2005.
SAR Submitted by: NAC
International, Inc.
SAR Title: Final Safety Analysis
Report for the NAC–UMS Universal
Storage System.
Docket Number: 72–1015.
Certificate Expiration Date: November
20, 2020.
Model Number: NAC–UMS.

* * * *

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of July, 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Martin J. Virgilio,

Acting Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 05–14567 Filed 7–22–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

20 CFR Part 345

RIN: 3220–AB53

Employers' Contributions and Contribution Reports

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (Board) amends its regulations to explain the effective date of consolidated employer records that result in the issuance of a joint contribution rate under the experience rating provisions of section 8 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. In addition, as a result of an agency reorganization, there has been a change in the title of the Board employee to

whom requests for consolidation should be addressed. The Board amends its regulations to reflect this change.

DATES: Effective July 25, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marguerite P. Dadabo, Assistant General Counsel, (312) 751–4945, TDD (312) 751–4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective January 1, 1990, the manner by which payroll taxes on railroad employers are determined moved from a universal tax rate to a tax rate based upon a formula which takes into consideration the amount of benefits that have been paid under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) to an employer's employees. This new method of computing employers' contribution rates is commonly referred to as experience rating. Part 345 of the Board's regulations deals with the manner by which experience rating contribution rates are determined and how employers report such contributions. Various business transactions throughout the year can impact employers' contribution rates. The existence of more than one rate for an employer during a calendar year creates a significant administrative burden for the Board, due to the design of the experience rating database. Therefore, the Board has adopted a policy of updating contribution rates to reflect relevant business transactions effective with the calendar year following the Board's determination related to the transaction.

In accordance with an agency reorganization, the revision to § 345.202 amends the title of the Board official to whom requests for the consolidation of employer records should be addressed from the Director of Unemployment and Sickness Insurance to the Director of Assessment and Training.

The revision to § 345.203 notifies employers of the date upon which an individual employer record will be updated to reflect a merger or combination of two or more employers. Where the entity surviving the merger is not a new employer, the individual employer record will not be updated to reflect the combined record until the calendar year following the year of the Board's determination. Where the entity surviving the merger becomes an employer under part 202 of subchapter B by virtue of the merger, the individual employer record shall consist of the combined record effective with its employer effective date.

The revision to § 345.204 notifies employers of the date upon which an individual employer record will be updated to reflect the acquisition of

assets from another employer. Where the employer acquiring the assets is not a new employer under part 202 of subchapter B, the individual employer record for that employer will take into consideration the acquired assets effective with the calendar year following the year of the Board's determination. Otherwise, the individual employer record for the entity that becomes an employer by virtue of the acquisition will take the acquired assets into consideration as of the employer effective date.

In order to comply with the President's June 1, 1998 memorandum directing the use of plain language for all proposed and final rulemaking, the regulatory paragraphs introduced by the above rule changes have been written in plain language.

Collection of Information Requirements

The amendments to this part do not impose additional information collection and recordkeeping requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Regulatory Impact Statement

Prior to publication of this final rule, the Board submitted the rule to the Office of Management and Budget for review pursuant to Executive Order 12866. Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). A regulatory impact analysis (RIA) must be prepared for rules that constitute significant regulatory action, including rules that have an economic effect of \$100 million or more annually. This final rule is not a major rule in terms of the aggregate costs involved. Specifically, we have determined that this final rule is not a major rule with economically significant effects because it would not result in increases in total expenditures of \$100 million or more per year.

The amendments made by this final rule are not significant. The amendments explain the effective date when an employer's individual employer records under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) will be updated to reflect various business transactions for purposes of establishing the employer's contribution rate under the experience rating provisions of section 8 of the RUIA. The