

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC PROPOSES TO AMEND REGULATIONS TO ADD THREE FUEL STORAGE CASK DESIGNS TO APPROVED LIST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations to add the NAC International Multi-Purpose Cannister (NAC-MPC), and the Transnuclear TN-32 and TN-68 cask systems, to the list of approved cask designs that utilities may use -- under a general license and without site-specific approval -- to store spent fuel at their nuclear power plants.

Under the terms of an NRC general license, any nuclear power reactor licensee can use a pre-approved cask if the company notifies the NRC in advance, meets the conditions of the cask's NRC certificate of compliance, and complies with NRC's regulations. These regulations include a requirement to ensure that the reactor site characteristics and potential site-boundary radiation doses are within the scope of the cask's safety analysis report and the reactor license.

The NAC-MPC, TN-32 and TN-68 certificates would contain conditions for use that are similar to those for other NRC-approved casks. However, the certificate for each cask design may differ in some specifics, such as operating procedures, training exercises and spent fuel specifications.

NRC staff has issued a preliminary safety evaluation report that finds, if the conditions specified in the certificates of compliance are met, adequate protection of public health and safety will be maintained. The staff's environmental assessment determined that use of the NAC-MPC, TN-32 or TN-68 cask design at reactor sites would have no significant incremental impacts on the environment.

While the NAC-MPC cask system is designed to be used as a dual purpose storage and transportation cask, the use or certification of the system for off-site transportation of spent fuel (under Part 71 of the Commission's regulations) is not a part of this rulemaking. Certification for transportation could occur only after the completion of a separate NRC review.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed rule, which can be found in Part 72 of the Commission's regulations. Comments should be submitted within 75 days after publication of a Federal Register notice on this subject, expected shortly. They should be addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. Comments may also be submitted via the NRC's interactive rulemaking web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>.

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