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NRC PROVIDES ADDITIONAL COMMENT PERIOD
ON PROPOSED RULE ON FUEL STORAGE CASKS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is providing an additional 30-day period for the public to comment on additional information related to a proposed amendment to its regulations which would add two fuel storage cask designs to its list of those which utilities can use, under a general license and without site-specific approval, to store spent fuel at their nuclear power plant sites.

The proposed amendment originally was issued for public comment on June 26, 1992, and the comment period expired on September 9, 1992.

The two casks which the NRC proposes to add to the four designs already approved for use under a general license and without site-specific approval are designs manufactured by Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates and Transnuclear, Inc. The NRC staff has prepared Certificates of Compliance and Safety Evaluation Reports for the two cask designs. In addition, the staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment and a finding of no significant impact with respect to the proposed action.

The staff also is taking steps to meet the requirements of NRC regulations which stipulate that information provided to the agency in a rulemaking and subsequently forms the basis for a final rule will not be withheld from public disclosure.

Accordingly, the staff has placed in the NRC's Public Document Room and all Local Public Document Rooms additional information related to the Pacific Sierra Nuclear Associates VSC-24 cask which has been previously classified as proprietary information.

Additional information on the Transnuclear, Inc., TN-24 design may be placed in the NRC and Local Public Document Rooms at a later date and may be the subject of a separate public notice depending on the outcome of ongoing discussions between the NRC staff and Transnuclear.

It is the staff's intention to release similar proprietary information for casks designed by other vendors that have previously been approved and for those that will be approved in the future. This additional action is intended to ensure even-handed treatment of all involved vendors.

Written comments on the additional information related to the proposed amendment to Part 72 of the Commission's regulations should be received by February 22, 1993. They should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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