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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC PROPOSES TO AMEND REGULATIONS TO ADD
ADDITIONAL FUEL STORAGE CASK DESIGN TO APPROVED LIST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations to add an additional fuel storage cask design to the list of those utilities can use--under a general license and without site-specific approval--to store spent fuel at their nuclear power plants.

The new design is the Standardized NUHOMS Horizontal Modular Storage System, manufactured by VECTRA Technologies, Inc., of San Jose, California (formerly known as Pacific Nuclear Fuels Services, Inc.). The addition would bring to seven the total number of fuel storage cask designs approved for use under a general license.

The NRC staff has reviewed the design of the cask and has prepared a draft safety evaluation report and draft certificate of compliance with the agency's safety requirements. The certificate would expire 20 years after the effective date of the amended regulation, unless it is renewed. The staff also has prepared an environmental assessment and a finding that this proposed change to the regulations will not have a significant incremental effect on the quality of the human environment.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed amendments, which are to Part 72 of the Commission's regulations, by August 16 (75 days after publication of a Federal Register notice on this subject on June 2). The comments should be addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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