



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 27, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO: David L. Meyer, Chief
Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration

FROM: Cynthia A. Carpenter, Chief
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial
and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NRR INPUT FOR COMPLYING WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS
REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT FAIRNESS ACT

To supplement our July 22, 1999, submittal, attached are two additional summary descriptions of final agency actions that NRR has identified as a potential "rules" under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA). Attachment 1 provides a description of "Changes to Requirements for Environmental Review for Renewal of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses (10 CFR Part 51)." Attachment 2 provides a description of "Respiratory Protection and Controls to Restrict Internal Exposures (10 CFR Part 20)." I would like to emphasize that the timely publication of the final Part 51 rule change is critical to NRC's schedule commitments on the first license renewal decisions contained in the Chairman's Tasking Memo (Issue IV.A, License Renewal). In the Commission paper forwarding the final rule, the staff is requesting the Commission's approval by August 23, 1999, to publish.

For your convenience, the attachments to this memorandum will be sent to Alzonía Shepard and Mike Lesar in electronic format (and also to Walter Oliu for his use to comply with the Electronic Freedom of Information Act).

If there are any questions or there is a need for additional information, please contact Melinda Malloy at 415-2832.

Attachments:

1. Agency Statement on Part 51
2. Agency Statement on Part 20

cc: W. Oliu
M. Lesar
A. Shepard
D. P. Cleary
A. K. Roecklein

DATE: July 27, 1999
AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
TITLE OF ACTION: Respiratory Protection and Controls to Restrict Internal Exposures (10 CFR Part 20)

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Non-major rule

UPCOMING ACTION: Final rule

AGENCY IDENTIFICATION: RIN No. 3150-AF81 (RM#269)

DATE OF ISSUANCE: Estimated September 1999

STATUTORY OR JUDICIAL DEADLINE: N/A

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: The Commission is amending its regulations at 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart H regarding the use of respiratory protection and other controls to restrict intake of radioactive material. The amendments make these regulations more consistent with the philosophy of controlling the sum of internal and external radiation exposure, reflect current guidance on respiratory protection from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), are consistent with recently effective revisions to OSHA's respiratory protection rule, and make NRC requirements for radiological protection less prescriptive without reducing worker protection. The amendments provide greater assurance that worker dose will be maintained as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA) and that recent technological advances in respiratory protection equipment and procedures are reflected in NRC regulations and clearly approved for use by licensees. The amendments reduce licensee burden by deleting requirements that are no longer needed, are redundant, or are no longer technically correct.

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