

September 25, 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PROPOSED REVISION TO 10 CFR PART 15

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations concerning the procedures that the NRC uses to collect the debts which are owed to it.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

10 CFR Part 15 was issued as a final rule on August 9, 1990 (55 FR 32375) which became effective September 10, 1990. This part was amended on October 16, 1991 (56 FR 51829) to include reference to 10 CFR Part 16. This part has not been amended since then.

Need for Proposed Action

Since the time that 10 CFR Part 15 was last published as a final rule, the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) (Pub. L. 104-134) was enacted on April 26, 1996. This Act enhances debt collection Government-wide. The Federal Claims Collection Standards (FCCS) (31 CFR Chapter IX and parts 900-904) were revised on November 22, 2000 (65 FR 70390). The revised FCCS were published jointly by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Justice. The NRC is required by the FCCS to issue debt collection procedures that conform with the DCIA and the FCCS. The proposed revisions to 10 CFR Part 15 reflect

legislative changes to Federal debt collection procedures enacted under the DCIA of 1966 and the debt collection procedures contained in the revised FCCS.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action

The proposed revision of 10 CFR Part 15 will have no radiological environmental impact offsite and no impact on occupational radiation exposure onsite. The amendment does not affect nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the staff has considered possible alternatives to the proposed action. One alternative was not to initiate a rulemaking proceeding. This is not acceptable as it would not conform to the statutory provision for the NRC to publish debt collection procedures which conform to the legislative changes in the DCIA of 1996 and the revised procedures contained in the FCCS.

Revising the existing rule was chosen as the alternative.

Alternative Use of Resources

No alternative use of resources was considered.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

No agencies or persons were consulted.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has determined that an environmental impact statement need not to be prepared for the proposed amendment.

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.