

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

10 CFR Part 16

RIN 3150-AG96

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations concerning the procedures used to collect debts that are owed to NRC by Federal employees. The final amendment would conform NRC regulations to the legislative changes enacted in the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) and the amended procedures presented in the Federal Claims Collection Standards (FCCS) issued by the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). This final action is intended to allow the NRC to improve its collection of debts due the United States from Federal employees.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Identification of Proposed Action: The NRC is amending 10 CFR Part 16 of its regulations to conform its regulations to the DCIA of 1996 and the FCCS which provide procedures for the collection by administrative offset of a Federal employee's salary without his or her consent to satisfy certain debts owed to the Federal Government.

Need for the Proposed Action: Since the time that 10 CFR Part 16 was last published as a final rule, the DCIA (Pub. L. 104-134) was enacted on April 26, 1996. This Act enhances debt collection Governmentwide. The 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

Treasury and DOJ. The NRC is required by the FCCS to issue debt collection procedures that conform with the DCIA and the FCCS. The final revisions to 10 CFR Part 16 reflect legislative changes to Federal debt collection procedures enacted under the DCIA and the debt collection procedures contained in the revised FCCS.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The final revision of 10 CFR Part 16 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.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: No agencies or persons were consulted.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: Based upon the foregoing EA, the Commission finds that the proposed action of amending 10 CFR Part 16 will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.