

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 72

[NRC-2021-0135]

RIN 3150-AK68

**List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Holtec International HI-STAR 100
Cask System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewal of Initial Certificate and
Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its spent fuel storage regulations by revising the Holtec International HI-STAR 100 Cask System listing within the “List of approved spent fuel storage casks” to renew, for an additional 40 years, the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of Certificate of Compliance No. 1008. The renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3 revises the certificate of compliance’s conditions and technical specifications to address aging management activities related to the structures, systems, and components of the dry storage system to ensure that these will maintain their intended functions during the period of extended storage operations.

DATES: Submit comments by November 1, 2021. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID NRC-2021-0135, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using

<https://www.regulations.gov>, call or email the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document for alternate instructions.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristina Banovac, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; telephone: 301-415-7116, email: Kristina.Banovac@nrc.gov and Vanessa Cox, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone: 301-415-8342, email: Vanessa.Cox@nrc.gov. Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2021-0135 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2021-0135. Address questions about NRC dockets to Dawn Forder, telephone: 301-415-3407, email: Dawn.Forder@nrc.gov. For technical

questions contact the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System**

(ADAMS): You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the "Availability of Documents" section.

- **Attention:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents, is currently closed. You may submit your request to the PDR via email at pdr.resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID NRC-2021-0135 in your comment submission. The NRC requests that you submit comments through the Federal rulemaking website at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov>, call or email the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document for alternate instructions.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Rulemaking Procedure

Because the NRC considers this action to be non-controversial, the NRC is publishing this proposed rule concurrently with a direct final rule in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the *Federal Register*. The direct final rule will become effective on December 15, 2021. However, if the NRC receives any significant adverse comment by November 1, 2021, then the NRC will publish a document that withdraws the direct final rule. If the direct final rule is withdrawn, the NRC will address the comments in a subsequent final rule. Absent significant modifications to the proposed revisions requiring republication, the NRC will not initiate a second comment period on this action in the event the direct final rule is withdrawn.

A significant adverse comment is a comment where the commenter explains why the rule would be inappropriate, including challenges to the rule's underlying premise or approach, or would be ineffective or unacceptable without a change. A comment is adverse and significant if:

1) The comment opposes the rule and provides a reason sufficient to require a substantive response in a notice-and-comment process. For example, a substantive response is required when:

a) The comment causes the NRC to reevaluate (or reconsider) its position or conduct additional analysis;

b) The comment raises an issue serious enough to warrant a substantive response to clarify or complete the record; or

c) The comment raises a relevant issue that was not previously addressed or considered by the NRC.

2) The comment proposes a change or an addition to the rule, and it is apparent that the rule would be ineffective or unacceptable without incorporation of the change or addition.

3) The comment causes the NRC to make a change (other than editorial) to the rule.

For a more detailed discussion of the proposed rule changes and associated analyses, see the direct final rule published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the *Federal Register*.

III. Background

Section 218(a) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, requires that “[t]he Secretary [of the Department of Energy] shall establish a demonstration program, in cooperation with the private sector, for the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel at civilian nuclear power reactor sites, with the objective of establishing one or more technologies that the [Nuclear Regulatory] Commission may, by rule, approve for use at the sites of civilian nuclear power reactors without, to the maximum extent practicable, the need for additional site-specific approvals by the Commission.” Section 133 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act states, in part, that “[t]he Commission shall, by rule, establish procedures for the licensing of any technology approved by the Commission under Section 219(a) [sic: 218(a)] for use at the site of any civilian nuclear power reactor.”

To implement this mandate, the Commission approved dry storage of spent nuclear fuel in NRC-approved casks under a general license by publishing a final rule

that added a new subpart K in part 72 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) entitled “General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites” (55 FR 29181; July 18, 1990). This rule also established a new subpart L in 10 CFR part 72 entitled “Approval of Spent Fuel Storage Casks,” which contains procedures and criteria for obtaining NRC approval of spent fuel storage cask designs. The NRC subsequently issued a final rule on September 3, 1999 (64 FR 48259) that approved the HI-STAR 100 Cask System design and added it to the list of NRC-approved cask designs in § 72.214 as Certificate of Compliance No. 1008.

IV. Plain Writing

The Plain Writing Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-274) requires Federal agencies to write documents in a clear, concise, well-organized manner. The NRC has written this document to be consistent with the Plain Writing Act as well as the Presidential Memorandum, “Plain Language in Government Writing,” published June 10, 1998 (63 FR 31885). The NRC requests comment on the proposed rule with respect to clarity and effectiveness of the language used.

V. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons as indicated.

DOCUMENT	ADAMS ACCESSION NO.
Holtec International HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008 Renewal Application, dated December 7, 2018	ML18345A178 (package)
Holtec International Response to the Request for Supplemental Information on the Renewal of the HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, dated June 28, 2019	ML19184A232 (package)

Holtec International Submittal of Supplemental Information Related to Request for Supplemental Information on the Renewal of the HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, dated October 10, 2019	ML19288A089 (package)
Holtec International HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008 Renewal, Updated Non-Proprietary Documents, dated December 12, 2019	ML19350A576
Holtec International Response to the Request for Additional Information on the Renewal of the HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, dated June 1, 2020	ML20153A768 (package)
Holtec International Response to the Request for Additional Information on the Renewal of the HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, dated June 11, 2020	ML20163A713 (package)
Holtec International Response to the Request for Clarification of Additional Information on the Renewal of the HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, dated November 13, 2020	ML20318A321 (package)
Holtec International Response to the Request for Clarification of Additional Information on the Renewal of the HI-STAR 100 Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Updated Attachment, dated November 24, 2020	ML20329A321 (package)
User Need Memorandum for Rulemaking for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008 Renewal, Initial Issue, Amendment Numbers 1, 2, and 3 to HI-STAR 100 Cask System, dated June 28, 2021	ML21168A352
Proposed Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 0	ML21168A353
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix A) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 0	ML21168A354
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix B) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 0	ML21168A355
Proposed Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 1	ML21168A356
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix A) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 1	ML21168A357
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix B) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 1	ML21168A358
Proposed Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 2	ML21168A359

Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix A) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 2	ML21168A360
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix B) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 2	ML21168A361
Proposed Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 3	ML21168A362
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix A) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 3	ML21168A363
Proposed Technical Specifications (Appendix B) for Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Renewed Amendment No. 3	ML21168A364
Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report for Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1008, Amendment Nos. 0, 1, 2, and 3	ML21168A365

The NRC may post materials related to this document, including public comments, on the Federal rulemaking website at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2021-0135.

Dated: September 15, 2021.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

/RA/

Margaret M. Doane,
Executive Director for Operations.