

Appendix K regarding acceptance criteria, evaluation model features and documentation, reporting of changes or errors, etc.

Section 50.12 of 10 CFR states that the Commission may grant exemptions from requirements of the regulations in 10 CFR part 50 for reasons, which are (1) the exemption is authorized by law, (2) the exemption will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, (3) the exemption is consistent with the common defense and security, and (4) special circumstances, as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), are present. The licensee's submittal identifies in particular that the special circumstance associated with this exemption request is that restricting application of 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K to fuels clad with only zircaloy or ZIRLO™ is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of these regulations.

#### A. The Exemption is Authorized by Law

The NRC has the authority under 10 CFR 50.12 to grant exemptions from the requirements of Part 50 upon demonstration of proper justification. The fuel that will be irradiated at Palo Verde is clad with a zirconium-based alloy that is not expressly within the scope of 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K. However, the NRC staff considers the acceptance criteria and methods of these regulations applicable to M5®, and the licensee will ensure that these regulations are satisfied for operation with fuel clad with M5®. Therefore, the exemption is authorized by law.

#### B. The Exemption Presents No Undue Risk to Public Health and Safety

The NRC-approved Topical Report BAW-10227-P-A, which concerns the properties of the M5® alloy, provides assurance that predicted chemical, thermal, and mechanical characteristics of M5® alloy cladding are acceptable under normal operation, anticipated transients, and postulated accidents. The NRC staff further found that the acceptance criteria and analytical methods from 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K provide acceptable safety margins for fuel clad with M5® that are consistent with those the NRC has established for zircaloy and ZIRLO™. Reload cores involving M5® cladding will continue to be subject to the operating limits specified in the technical specifications and core operating limits report. Thus, granting this exemption request will not pose undue risk to public health and safety.

#### C. The Exemption Is Consistent With the Common Defense and Security

The proposed exemption will allow the licensee to use an enhanced fuel rod cladding material relative to the zircaloy material for which the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K were originally established. In addition to its review of the exemption request described in this SE, the NRC staff has further evaluated all licensing-basis changes necessary to support loading fuel clad with M5® in a separate SE and documented the basis for their acceptability. Based on these reviews, the NRC staff concludes that the use of M5® fuel rod cladding at Palo Verde will not significantly affect plant operations and is therefore consistent with the common defense and security.

#### D. Special Circumstances

Neither 10 CFR 50.46 nor 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K explicitly applies to fuel clad with M5®. However, the underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K is to provide requirements capable of ensuring adequate core cooling following the most limiting postulated loss-of-coolant accident. As discussed above, Framatome has demonstrated in an NRC-approved topical report (*i.e.*, BAW-10227-P-A) that application of the acceptance criteria and analytical methods required in 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K to fuel clad with M5® is acceptable. Normal core reload safety analyses will further confirm on a cycle-specific basis that there is no adverse impact on ECCS performance for Palo Verde. Therefore, strict application of the material-specific requirements for fuel cladding in 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of ensuring adequate core cooling in this instance. Furthermore, granting an exemption to allow application of the balance of these regulations to fuel clad with M5® at Palo Verde would be consistent with the underlying regulatory purpose.

#### E. Supplemental Information

For more technical details, refer to the SE associated with this exemption under ADAMS Accession No. ML20022A109 (Enclosure 2).

#### F. Environmental Considerations

The NRC staff determined that the exemption discussed herein meets the eligibility criteria for the categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9) because it is related to a requirement concerning the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area, as defined in 10 CFR

part 20, and the granting of this exemption involves: (i) No significant hazards consideration, (ii) no significant change in the types or a significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and (iii) no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the NRC's consideration of this exemption request.

#### IV. Conclusions

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Also, special circumstances are present. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants APS an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix K, to allow the use of Framatome M5® alloy fuel rod cladding material at Palo Verde, Units 1, 2, and 3. As stated above, this exemption relates solely to the cladding material specified in these regulations.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of March 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Craig G. Erlanger,**

*Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

#### OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**Submission for Review: 3206-0136, Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, SF 2823**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** 60-day notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Employee Insurance Operations, Healthcare Insurance, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) offers the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a revised information collection request (ICR), Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance, SF 2823.

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until May 8, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by contacting the Retirement Services Publications Team, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW, Room 3316-L, Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Cyrus S. Benson, or sent by email to [Cyrus.Benson@opm.gov](mailto:Cyrus.Benson@opm.gov) or faxed to (202) 606-0910 or reached via telephone at (202) 606-4808.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35) as amended by the Clinger-Cohen Act (Pub. L. 104-106), OPM is soliciting comments for this collection (OMB No. 3206-0136). The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments that:

1. Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Standard Form 2823 is used by any Federal employee or retiree covered by the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program, or an assignee who owns an insured's coverage, to instruct the Office of Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance how to distribute the proceeds of the FEGLI coverage when

the statutory order of precedence does not meet his or her needs.

### Analysis

*Agency:* Federal Employee Insurance Operations, Healthcare Insurance, OPM.

*Title:* Designation of Beneficiary: Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance.

*OMB Number:* 3206-0136.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Number of Respondents:* 48,000.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Total Burden Hours:* 12,000.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Alexys Stanley,**

*Regulatory Affairs Analyst.*

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**BILLING CODE 6325-38-P**

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2020-97 and CP2020-101]

### New Postal Product

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* March 11, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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#### I. Introduction

The Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition or removal of a negotiated service agreement from the market dominant or

the competitive product list, or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the market dominant or the competitive product list.

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, the title of each Postal Service request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 (Public Representative). Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each request.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (<http://www.prc.gov>). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3007.301.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) in the captioned docket(s) are consistent with the policies of title 39. For request(s) that the Postal Service states concern market dominant product(s), applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3622, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3010, and 39 CFR part 3020, subpart B. For request(s) that the Postal Service states concern competitive product(s), applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3015, and 39 CFR part 3020, subpart B. Comment deadline(s) for each request appear in section II.

#### II. Docketed Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s):* MC2020-97 and CP2020-101; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 1 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* March 3, 2020; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3020.30 *et seq.*, and 39 CFR 3015.5; *Public Representative:* Kenneth R. Moeller; *Comments Due:* March 11, 2020.

<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. RM2018-3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19-22 (Order No. 4679).