

the calculated peak containment internal pressure (Pa)), the secondary containment bypass leakage pathways, and the containment leakage pathway (La) separately in their dose consequence analyses. The calculated radiological consequences of the combined leakages are within the criteria of 10 CFR 50.67. The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's analyses and found them acceptable.

### 3.0 Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security, and (2) when special circumstances are present. Special circumstances are present whenever, according to 10 CFR part 50.12(a)(2)(ii), "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. \* \* \*"

The licensee's exemption request was submitted in conjunction with a TS amendment application to increase the allowable leak rate for the main steam isolation valves (MSIVs). The proposed amendment will be issued concurrently with this exemption. The exemption and amendments together would implement the recommendations of Topical Report NEDC-31858, "BWR Report for Increasing MSIV Leakage Rate Limits and Elimination of Leakage Control Systems." The topical report was evaluated by the NRC staff and accepted in a safety evaluation dated March 3, 1999. The special circumstances associated with MSIV leakage testing are fully described in the topical report. These circumstances relate to the monetary costs and personnel radiation exposure involved with maintaining MSIV leakage limits more restrictive than necessary to meet offsite dose criteria and control room habitability criteria.

The underlying purpose of the rule which implements Appendix J (*i.e.*, 10 CFR 50.54(o)) is to assure that containment leak tight integrity is maintained (a) as tight as reasonably achievable and (b) sufficiently tight so as to limit effluent release to values bounded by the analyses of radiological consequences of design basis accidents. The NRC staff has determined that the intent of the rule is not compromised by the proposed action.

Based on the foregoing, the separation of the main steam pathways from the other containment leakage pathways is warranted because a separate radiological consequence term has been provided for these pathways. The revised design basis radiological consequences analyses address these pathways as individual factors, exclusive of the primary containment leakage. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed exemption from Appendix J to be acceptable.

### 4.0 Conclusion

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR part 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 Entergy an exemption from the requirements of sections III.A and III.B of Option B of Appendix J to 10 CFR part 50 for VYNPS.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (69 FR 67612).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of March 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Ledyard B. Marsh,**

*Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

### Draft 2005 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations

**AGENCY:** Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** OMB requests comments on 2005 Draft Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulation. The full Draft Report is available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/regpolreports\\_congress.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/regpolreports_congress.html), and is divided into three chapters. Chapter I presents estimates of the costs and benefits of Federal regulation and

paperwork, with an emphasis on the major regulations issued between October 1, 2003 and September 31, 2004. Chapter II reports the latest results of our ongoing historical examination of the trends in Federal regulatory activity and explores what we know about the validation of ex ante estimates of costs and benefits of Federal regulation by ex post studies. Chapter III includes a discussion of the implementation of the Information Quality Act.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration of comments as OMB prepares this Draft Report for submission to Congress, comments must be in writing and received by June 21, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** We are still experiencing delays in the regular mail, including first class and express mail. To ensure that your comments are received, we recommend that comments on this draft report be electronically mailed to [OIRA\\_BC\\_RPT@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_BC_RPT@omb.eop.gov), or faxed to (202) 395-7245. You may also submit comments to Lorraine Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Room 10202, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lorraine Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Room 10202, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Telephone: (202) 395-3084.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Congress directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to prepare an annual Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations. Specifically, Section 624 of the FY 2001 Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, also known as the "Regulatory Right-to-Know Act," (the Act) requires OMB to submit a report on the costs and benefits of Federal regulations together with recommendation for reform. The Act states that the report should contain estimates of the costs and benefits of regulations in the aggregate, by agency and agency program, and by major rule, as well as an analysis of impacts of Federal regulation on State, local, and tribal governments, small businesses, wages, and economic growth. The Act also states that the report should go through notice and comment and peer review.

**Donald R. Arbuckle,**

*Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.*

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