

defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the requested action. Denial of the requested action would not significantly enhance the environment in that the proposed action will result in a process that is equivalent to the existing identification verification process.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Final Environmental Statement dated November 1978, related to the operation of the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 22, 1996, the NRC staff consulted with the Illinois State official, Mr. Frank Niziolek, Head, Reactor Safety Section, Division of Engineering, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated February 20, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Jacobs Memorial Library, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby Illinois 61348.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of April, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Donna M. Skay,
*Project Manager, Project Directorate III-2,
Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*
[FR Doc. 96-9668 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Issuance of Bulletin; NRC Bulletin 96-02, Movement of Heavy Loads Over Spent Fuel, Over Fuel in the Reactor Core, or Over Safety-Related Equipment

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of issuance.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued NRC Bulletin 96-02 to holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors to verify that licensees are complying with the current licensing basis for each of their facilities with respect to the proper handling and control of heavy loads at nuclear power plants when the plant is operating (in all modes other than cold shutdown, refueling and defueled). The issuance of this bulletin is justified on the basis of the need to ensure compliance with the current licensing basis regarding the weight of heavy loads being moved over spent fuel, over fuel in the reactor core, or over safety-related equipment, and the potentially severe consequences that can result if a load is dropped. Although this bulletin is particularly concerned with heavy load movements while the reactor is operating, the NRC staff is considering further generic actions on the issue of handling heavy loads both while the reactor is operating and during shutdown. This bulletin is available in the NRC Public Document Room under accession number 9604080259. This bulletin is discussed in Commission information paper SECY-96-073 which is also available in the NRC Public Document Room.

DATES: The bulletin was issued on April 11, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Not applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian E. Thomas, (301) 415-1210 (or Internet: BET@NRC.GOV).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NRC has determined that some licensees have engaged in, or are planning to engage in, heavy load handling activities that may not be within the current licensing basis of their respective facilities. As defined in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, under Section 50.59(c), if an activity is found to involve an unreviewed safety

question, an application for a license amendment must be filed with the Commission pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90. Consequently, the NRC has requested that holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors review their plans and capabilities for handling heavy loads in accordance with existing regulatory guidelines, determine whether the activities are within their licensing basis as previously analyzed in the final safety analysis report (and, as appropriate, submit a license amendment request), and determine whether changes to Technical Specifications will be required. All licensees that are planning to implement activities involving the handling of heavy loads during reactor operation (i.e., other than when the reactor is in cold shutdown, refueling or defueled), within the next 2 years from the date of this bulletin, are required to submit a report that addresses the information requested above, and to submit license amendment requests 6-9 months in advance of the planned heavy load movements to give the NRC sufficient time to perform an appropriate safety review.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of April, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Dennis M. Crutchfield,
*Director, Division of Program Management,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*
[FR Doc. 96-9667 Filed 4-18-96; 8:45 am]
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Rel. No. IC-21894; File No. 812-9970]

Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa, et al.

April 15, 1996.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

ACTION: Notice of Application for Exemption under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act").

APPLICANTS: Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa ("Equitable") and Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa Separate Account A (the "Account").

RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS: Order requested pursuant to Section 26(b) of the 1940 Act approving the proposed substitution of securities and pursuant to Section 17(b) of the 1940 Act exempting the proposed transaction from the provisions of Section 17(a) of the 1940 Act.