

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Samuel J. Collins,
*Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor
 Regulation.*
 [FR Doc. 97-14014 Filed 5-28-97; 8:45 am]
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Availability of Draft Branch Technical Position on a Performance Assessment Methodology for Low- Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission.

ACTION: Availability of Draft Branch
 Technical Position.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission is announcing the
 availability of the "Draft Branch
 Technical Position on a Performance
 Assessment Methodology for Low-Level
 Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities."

DATES: The comment period expires
 August 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Chief,
 Rules Review and Directives Branch,
 Division of Freedom of Information and
 Publications Services, U.S. Nuclear
 Regulatory Commission, 11545
 Rockville Pike, Mail Stop T-6-D59,
 Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738.
 Comments may be delivered to the same
 address between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15
 p.m., on Federal workdays.

A copy of the draft Branch Technical
 Position (BTP) is available for public
 inspection and/or copying at the NRC
 Public Document Room, 2120 L Street
 (Lower Level), NW, Washington, DC
 20555-0001. Copies of the draft BTP
 may also be obtained by contacting
 Karen S. Vandervort, Division of Waste
 Management, Office of Nuclear Material
 Safety and Safeguards. Telephone: (301)
 415-7252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
 Anne E. Garcia, Division of Waste
 Management, Office of Nuclear Material
 Safety and Safeguards. Telephone: (301)
 415-6631.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S.
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
 (NRC's) regulation regarding the
 licensing requirements for the land
 disposal of low-level radioactive waste
 (LLW) can be found at 10 CFR part 61.
 Part 61 requires that technical analyses
 be performed to demonstrate protection
 of the general population from releases
 of radioactivity to the general
 environment in certain environmental

pathways such as ground water, surface
 water, air, soil, and biota (plants). A
 LLW performance assessment is a
 technical analysis that can be used to
 demonstrate compliance with NRC's
 performance objective for radiological
 protection of the general public—10
 CFR 61.41. NRC's Performance
 Assessment Working Group has
 prepared a draft BTP, designated
 NUREG-1573, as a step toward
 providing detailed LLW performance
 assessment guidance to potential
 applicants for a NRC license. When
 finalized, the BTP may contain
 information that may be useful to
 Agreement States and disposal site
 developers on LLW performance
 assessment. In this regard, the draft BTP
 includes the staff's technical positions
 on: (a) An acceptable approach for
 systematically integrating site
 characterization, facility design, and
 performance modeling into a single
 performance assessment process; (b) five
 principal regulatory issues regarding
 interpreting and implementing Part 61
 performance objectives and technical
 requirements governing LLW site post-
 closure performance; and (c)
 implementation of NRC's LLW
 performance assessment methodology.
 In arriving at the proposed positions
 taken on these issues in the draft BTP,
 the staff has considered a number of
 alternatives. Nevertheless, the staff is
 interested in the public's views on both
 the suitability of approaches presented
 in the draft BTP for measuring the
 performance of LLW disposal facilities,
 as well as the staff's proposed positions
 on certain LLW regulatory issues: (a)
 Consideration of future site conditions,
 processes, and events; (b) performance
 of engineered barriers; (c) timeframe for
 an LLW performance assessment; (d)
 treatment of sensitivity and uncertainty;
 and (e) the role of performance
 assessment during the operational and
 closure periods.

To obtain early feedback on the
 guidance for LLW performance
 assessment under development by the
 staff, a preliminary draft of the BTP was
 distributed for comment to LLW-sited
 and host Agreement State regulatory
 entities; the Advisory Committee on
 Nuclear Waste (ACNW); the U.S.
 Department of Energy (DOE); the U.S.
 Environmental Protection Agency; and
 the U.S. Geological Survey in January
 1994. The staff briefed the ACNW and
 the Commission on the scope and
 content of the BTP in March and April
 1994, respectively. The staff
 subsequently held two workshops on
 the BTP and LLW performance
 assessment. The first was a 2-day

workshop held at NRC Headquarters on
 November 16-17, 1994. The second was
 a half-day workshop, limited to certain
 technical issues in LLW performance
 assessment, held at the 16th Annual
 DOE/LLW Management Conference on
 December 13-15, 1994. Finally, the staff
 briefed the ACNW on key regulatory
 issues and its evaluation of the
 workshop comments on March 16, 1995.
 This draft BTP reflects the staff's
 consideration of feedback received
 during those interactions. However, the
 staff did not formally respond to these
 comments in preparing this version.

In a related matter, the staff would be
 interested in the views of the public
 concerning whether it would be
 appropriate to discount potential doses,
 from a hypothetical LLW disposal site,
 to future generations. In the context of
 LLW disposal, it does not appear that
 the use of the "time-value of money"
 approach to discounting is
 implementable considering the long
 time frames of performance considered.
 In the context of LLW disposal,
 application of discounting, either
 qualitative or quantitative, might more
 appropriately weigh present-day
 economic cost of design and
 performance features associated with
 LLW disposal against expectations
 about future health risks. This approach
 would not allow the standard to be
 exceeded, but would address the level
 of assurance necessary to demonstrate
 that the LLW performance objectives
 will be met. Although the draft BTP
 does not address this issue, the staff has
 been asked by the Commission to
 request comment on this concept as part
 of the public comment process.

Finally, the staff is aware that several
 entities have commented on aspects of
 the BTP, as presented in the January
 1994, preliminary draft, through the
 Commission's November 1995 Strategic
 Assessment and Rebaselining Initiative.
 The staff was directed by the
 Commission to inform it on how it plans
 to resolve those comments prior to a
 decision to finalize the BTP. As part of
 the public comment process, the staff
 will provide the Commission with a
 summary of all public comments,
 including those made during the
 Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining
 Initiative, and proposed resolutions to
 those comments prior to finalizing the
 BTP.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd
 day of May 1997.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michael J. Bell,

Acting Chief, Performance Assessment and High-Level Waste Integration Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION

Revision of a Currently Approved Collection of Information

AGENCY: Panama Canal Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 109 Stat. 163), this notice announces the Panama Canal Commission (PCC) is planning to submit to the Office of Management and Budget a Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (83-I) for a revision of a currently approved collection of information contained in Subchapter C (Shipping and Navigation) of Chapter I, Title 35, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), OMB No. 3207-0001.

DATES: Written comments on this proposed action regarding the collection of information must be submitted by July 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments concerning this notice to Edward H. Clarke, Desk Officer for Panama Canal Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Huff, Office of the Secretary, Panama Canal Commission, 202-634-6441.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. Collection of information is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c). Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register**, and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information, by soliciting comments to: (a) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including

whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the proposed collection of information; enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (c) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Title: Subchapter C (Shipping and Navigation) of Chapter I, 35 CFR.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Background: Article III of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and section 1101 of its implementing legislation, Public Law 96-70, 93 Stat. 456, vest in the Panama Canal Commission the responsibility and authority to maintain and operate the Panama Canal. Section 1801 of Public Law 96-70, codified at 22 U.S.C. 3811, explicitly authorizes the Commission to promulgate regulations governing navigation of the waters of the Panama Canal. The information required by various sections of Subchapter C (Shipping and Navigation) of Title 35 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and obtained through the use of the subject forms, is essential for the Commission to carry out its mission in a safe and efficient manner.

Abstract: On December 24, 1981, OMB approved a collection of information proposal submitted by the Panama Canal Commission in conjunction with a revision of its navigation regulations (35 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter C), and assigned this collection OMB Number 3207-0001 with an expiration date of December 31, 1984. Prior to the expiration of the collection, PCC requested another extension and received OMB approval through March 31, 1988. PCC continued requesting approval in subsequent expiration years and received extensions through August 31, 1991, September 30, 1994 and September 30, 1997. The forms required by those regulations, which make up the collection of information are used to collect, from vessels arriving in the Panama Canal waters, information required for assuring the vessels are in compliance with Panama Canal Commission shipping and navigation regulations. The information collected will be used for economic analyses, traffic forecasting, identification, tonnage calculation, billing, safety and sanitation purposes.

Burden Statement: It is estimated the burden (which varies widely, depending upon the nature of each vessel's operations) for cargo vessels ranges from 5 minutes to 4 hours per response. The

burden will be lessened for those vessels having the capability of producing computer-generated cargo declarations. For passenger vessels, the range would be from approximately 2 hours to 13 hours. The utilization of computer-generated crew and passenger lists should reduce by 8 to 10 hours the time required of a vessel like the "M/V GALAXY." The smallest passenger vessels carry about 13 passengers; one of the largest, the "M/V GALAXY" is capable of carrying 2,217 passengers. It would be very difficult to provide a meaningful estimate of the total burden for each vessel since some transit frequently, while others may transit only once or infrequently.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 16,487.

Estimated Total Hours per Response: 2.

Total Annual Reporting Hour Burden: 32,974.

Respondents: Canal users.

Frequency of Collection: When arriving in Panama Canal waters.

Jacinto Wong,

Chief Information Officer, Senior Official for Information Resources Management.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Rel. No. 22679; 812-9934]

The Latin American Discovery Fund, Inc., et al.; Notice of Application

May 21, 1997.

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

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

APPLICANTS: The Latin American Discovery Fund, Inc., The Malaysia Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Africa Investment Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Asia-Pacific Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Global Opportunity Bond Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley High Yield Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley India Investment Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Institutional Fund, Inc., The Pakistan Investment Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Russia and New Europe Fund, Inc., Morgan Stanley Universal Fund, Inc., The Turkish Investment Fund, Inc. (collectively, the "Funds"); Morgan Stanley Asset Management Inc.