

regulations for Yucca Mountain can be found in a Commission paper, designated SECY-97-300, dated December 24, 1997. This strategy was approved by the SRM dated March 6, 1998. Because the NRC is developing site-specific disposal regulations for Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the proposed rulemaking is being withdrawn.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of November, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John C. Hoyle,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-32109 Filed 12-1-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket Number EE-RM-97-500]

RIN:1904-AA75

Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts Energy Conservation Standards

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On October 30, 1998, the Department of Energy published a notice providing limited reopening of the record of its rulemaking to revise energy conservation standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (63 FR 58330). The notice announced that November 30, 1998, would be the closing date for receiving public comments regarding the Department's consideration of consumers who choose electronic ballast T-8 systems over electronic ballast T-12 systems and consumers who choose electronic ballasts over cathode cutout ballasts. On November 20, 1998, the National Electrical Manufacturers Association requested that the comment period be extended until December 15, 1998, to allow additional time for data collection and to avoid having the closing date immediately follow the Thanksgiving holiday. The Department agrees to extend the comment period closing date until December 15, 1998.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments are welcome. Please submit 10 copies (no

faxes) to: Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts, Docket No. EE-RM-97-500, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Adams, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-9127, or Eugene Margolis, Esq., U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, GC-72, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9507.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 25, 1998.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 98-32120 Filed 12-1-98; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

12 CFR Part 229

[Regulation CC; Docket No. R-1027]

Availability of Funds and Collection of Checks

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Board) is proposing to amend Regulation CC to allow banks that consummate a merger on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999, greater time to implement software changes related to the merger. **DATES:** Comments must be received by January 4, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments, which should refer to Docket No. R-1027, may be mailed to Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551. Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson may also be delivered to the Board's mail room between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., and to the security control room at all other times. Both the mail room and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, N.W. Comments may be inspected in room MP-500, pursuant to § 261.12 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, between

9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., except as provided in § 261.14 of those same Rules. (12 CFR 261.12 and 261.14)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Anderson, Staff Attorney, Legal Division (202/452-3707). For the hearing impaired only, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), Diane Jenkins (202/452-3544).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board is proposing to amend Regulation CC to allow banks that consummate merger transactions on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999, greater time to implement software changes related to the merger. The Board recognizes that banks are currently dedicating their automation resources to renovating and testing software and replacing noncompliant systems to address Year 2000 and leap year computer problems. Because a large amount of banks' automation resources may be dedicated to these efforts, banks may be challenged to make and test other programming changes, including those that may be required to comply with Regulation CC's merger transition provisions, thus potentially jeopardizing the success of their Year 2000 efforts and/or their system integration efforts due to the merger. Therefore, the Board is proposing to allow banks that consummate a merger on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999, to be treated as separate banks until June 1, 2000. Beginning in June 1999, the normal one-year transition period will resume.

The Board requests comment on the need for this amendment and whether the proposed liberalization of the regulation's merger transition provisions is adequate to avoid contention for programming and testing resources necessary to manage banks' Year 2000 readiness efforts that otherwise would be created by these requirements.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) requires an agency to publish an initial regulatory flexibility analysis with any notice of proposed rulemaking. The initial regulatory flexibility analysis (5 U.S.C. 603(b)) requires an agency to describe the reasons why the proposed rule is being considered and a statement of the objectives of, and legal basis for, the proposed rule. The "Supplementary Information" above, contains this information. The proposed rule requires no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements and does not overlap with other federal rules.

The initial regulatory flexibility analysis also requires a description of,

and where feasible, an estimate of the number of small entities to which the proposed rule will apply. The proposal will apply to all insured banks, as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 USC 1813) as well as banks that are eligible to apply to become an insured bank under section 5 of that act (12 U.S.C. 1815). As of June 30, 1998, there were 10,712 insured banks. The proposed amendments are intended to provide relief to banks involved in mergers, including small institutions, by reducing required changes to their automation environment during the period surrounding the century rollover, and should not have a negative economic effect on small institutions.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 229

Banks, banking, Federal Reserve System, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Board proposes to amend Regulation CC, 12 CFR part 229 as set forth below:

PART 229—AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND COLLECTION OF CHECKS (REGULATION CC)

1. The authority citation for part 229 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*

2. In § 229.19, paragraph (g) is redesignated as paragraph (g)(1), a heading is added for newly designated paragraph (g)(1), and a new paragraph (g)(2) would be added to read as follows:

§ 229.19 Miscellaneous.

* * * * *

(g) *Effect of merger transaction.* (1) *In general.* * * *

(2) *Merger transactions on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999.* If banks have consummated a merger transaction on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999, the merged banks may be considered separate banks until June 1, 2000.

3. In § 229.40 the existing text is redesignated as paragraph (a), a heading is added for newly designated paragraph (a), and a new paragraph (b) would be added to read as follows:

§ 229.40 Effect of merger transaction.

(a) *In general.* * * *

(b) *Merger transactions on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999.* If banks have consummated a merger transaction on or after July 1, 1998, and before June 1, 1999, the merged banks may be considered separate banks until June 1, 2000.

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 25, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-32051 Filed 12-1-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 96-ANE-02]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT8D-200 Series Turbofan Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the superseding of an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to Pratt & Whitney JT8D-200 series turbofan engines, that currently requires periodic inspection of fan blades for locked rotors and foreign object damage (FOD), unlocking of shrouds if necessary, lubrication of fan blade shrouds, and dimensional restoration of the fan blade leading edge. In addition, that AD requires installation of improved design fan blades as terminating action for the inspections. This action would reduce the lubrication interval, and require removal of rotors that experience repeat lockups within 225 cycles in service. This proposal is prompted by reports of 7 fan blade failures since publication of the current AD. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent fan blade failure, which can result in damage to the aircraft.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96-ANE-02, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299. Comments may also be sent via the Internet using the following address: "9-ad-engineprop@faa.dot.gov". Comments sent via the Internet must contain the docket number in the subject line. Comments may be inspected at this location between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from

fan blade failure, which can result in damage to the aircraft. This information may be examined at the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter White, Aerospace Engineer, Engine Certification Office, FAA, Engine and Propeller Directorate, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299; telephone (781) 238-7128, fax (781) 238-7199.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications should identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 96-ANE-02." The postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, New England Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 96-ANE-02, 12 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA 01803-5299.

Discussion

On November 7, 1996, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued airworthiness directive AD 96-23-15, Amendment 39-9821 (61 FR 63706, December 2, 1996), applicable to Pratt & Whitney (PW) JT8D-200 series turbofan