

Week of April 19—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of April 19.

The Schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: By a vote of 5-0 on March 19, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Briefing on Millstone Independent Review Team" (Closed—Ex. 2, 5 & 7), be held on March 19, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

By a vote of 5-0 on March 23, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Affirmation of Hydro Resources, Inc.—ENDAUM's and SRIC's Petition For Interlocutory Review of Presiding Officer's Order Concerning Technical Qualifications (March 3, 1999)" (PUBLIC MEETING) be held on March 23, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

By a vote of 5-0 on March 25, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Briefing on Millstone Independent Review Team" (Closed—Ex. 2, 5 & 7), be held on March 25, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: March 26, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-7872 Filed 3-26-99; 2:27 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Draft Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment a

proposed revision of a guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The draft guide, temporarily identified by its task number, DG-1084 (which should be mentioned in all correspondence concerning this draft guide), is the Second Proposed Revision 3 of Regulatory Guide 1.8, "Qualification and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants." The guide will be in Division 1, "Power Reactors." This proposed revision is being developed to provide current guidance acceptable to the NRC staff regarding qualifications and training for nuclear power plant personnel. This regulatory guide would endorse an American Nuclear Society standard, ANSI/ANS-3.1-1993, "Selection, Qualification, and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants," with certain clarifications, additions, and exceptions.

The draft guide has not received complete staff approval and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

Comments may be accompanied by relevant information or supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Comments will be most helpful if received by May 20, 1999.

You may also provide comments via the NRC's interactive rulemaking website through the NRC home page (http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/library?source=*&library=rg_lib&file=). This site provides the availability to upload comments as files (any format), if your web browser supports that function. For information about the interactive rulemaking website, contact Ms. Carol Gallagher, (301) 415-5905; e-mail CAG@nrc.gov. For information about the draft guide and the related documents, contact Ms. I. Schoenfeld, (301)415-6778; e-mail ISS@nrc.gov.

Although a time limit is given for comments on this draft guide, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Requests for single copies of draft or final guides (which may be reproduced) or for placement on an automatic distribution list for single copies of future draft guides in specific divisions should be made in writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Reproduction and Distribution Services Section; or by fax to (301)415-2289, or by e-mail to DISTRICTION@NRC.GOV. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John W. Craig,

Director, Division of Regulatory Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 99-7755 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Performance of Commercial Activities

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

ACTION: Issuance of Transmittal Memorandum No. 19, amending OMB Circular No. A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities."

SUMMARY: This Transmittal Memorandum updates the Federal pay raise assumptions and inflation factors used for computing the Government's in-house personnel and non-pay costs, as generally provided in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2000. In addition, the standard retirement cost factors for the weighted average CSRS/FERS pension and Federal retiree health cost numbers are revised.

DATES: All changes in the Transmittal Memorandum are effective immediately on March 30, 1999, and shall apply to all cost comparisons in process where the Government's in-house cost estimate has not been publicly revealed before this date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Budget Analysis and Systems Division, NEOB Room 6002, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Tel. No. (202) 395-6104, FAX No. (202) 395-7230.

Availability

Copies of the current OMB Circular A-76 and the March 1996 OMB Circular A-76 Revised Supplemental Handbook may be obtained by contacting the Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration, Publications Office, Washington, DC 20503, at (202) 395-7332. These documents are also accessible on the OMB Home page. The online OMB Home page address (URL) is <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/omb>.

Jacob J. Lew,
Director.

Executive Office of the President,

Office of Management and Budget,
Washington, D.C. 20503

March 24, 1999.

Circular No. A-76 (Revised)

Transmittal Memorandum No. 19

To The Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Performance of Commercial Activities

This Transmittal Memorandum updates the Federal pay raise assumptions and inflation factors used for computing the Government's in-house personnel and non-pay costs, as generally provided in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2000.

The non-pay inflation factors are for purposes of A-76 cost comparison determinations only. They reflect the generic non-pay inflation assumptions used to develop the FY 2000 Budget baseline estimates required by law. The law requires that a specific inflation factor (GDP FY/FY chained price index) be used for this purpose. These inflation factors should not be viewed as estimates of expected inflation rates for major long-term procurement items or as an estimate of inflation for any particular agency's non-pay purchases mix.

Federal pay raise assumptions effective date	military/civilian (percent)
January 2000	4.4
January 2001	3.9
January 2002	3.9
January 2003	3.9
January 2004	3.9

Non-Pay Categories (Supplies and Equipment, etc.)
FY 1998—1.2%

FY 1999—1.3%
FY 2000—2.0%
FY 2001—2.1%
FY 2002—2.1%
FY 2003—2.1%
FY 2004—2.1%

Geographic pay differentials received in 1999 shall be included for the development of in-house personnel costs. The above pay raise factors shall be applied after consideration is given to the geographic pay differentials. The pay raise factors provided for 2000 and beyond shall be applied to all employees, with no assumption being made as to how they will be distributed between possible locality and ECI-based increases.

In addition, the standard retirement cost factors for the weighted average CSRS FERS pension and Federal retiree health cost numbers are reduced from those published in the March 1996 A-76 Supplemental Handbook. These numbers are being revised because of downward estimates in actuarial normal cost estimates, which more than offset the gradual shift toward FERS in the total. However, the post-retirement health cost was revised up by a full percentage point. The net result is that the cost factors provided at Part II, Chapter 2, paragraph B.6. f. 1.a., are up by 0.3 to 0.6 percentage points. In addition, the current benefit component for Federal employee insurance and health benefits at Part II, Chapter 2, paragraph 6. f. 1.b is revised up by 0.1 percentage points on the health side to 5.7 percent. The Medicare factor of 1.45 at Part II, Chapter 2, paragraph 6. f. 1.b and the cost of miscellaneous fringe benefits of 1.7 percent at Part II, Chapter 2, paragraph 6. f. 1.c., are unchanged.

Current Handbook—as printed in the March 1996 Revised Supplemental Handbook at Part II, Chapter 2, Paragraph 6.f.1.a (page 20):
23.7% Regular (19.6 pension + 4.1 retiree health)
32.3% Air Traffic Controllers (28.2 pension + 4.1 retiree health)
37.7% Law Enforcement (33.6 pension + 4.1 retiree health)

Revised Handbook—as provided by this Transmittal at Part II, Chapter 2, Paragraph 6.f.1.a (page 20):
24.0% Regular (18.9 pension + 5.1 retiree health)
33.0% Air Traffic Controllers (27.9 pension + 5.1 retiree health)
38.2% Law Enforcement (33.1 pension + 5.1 retiree health)

Other Current Benefits—as provided at Part II, Chapter 2, Paragraph 6.f.1.b (page 20):
Current Handbook (March 1996) 5.6%
Revised per this Transmittal 5.7%

These updates are effective as follows: all changes in the Transmittal Memorandum are effective immediately and shall apply to all cost comparisons in process where the Government's in-house cost estimate has not been publicly revealed before this date.

Agencies are reminded that OMB Circular No. A-76, Transmittal Memoranda 1 through Transmittal Memorandum 14 are canceled. Transmittal Memorandum No. 15 provided the Revised Supplemental Handbook, and is dated March 27, 1996 (**Federal Register**, April 1, 1996, pages 14338-14346). Transmittal Memoranda No. 16, 17 and 18,

which provided the last three year's OMB Circular A-76 Federal pay raise and inflation factor assumptions are also canceled.

Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew,

Director.

[FR Doc. 99-7666 Filed 3-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. IC-23750; File No. 812-11288]

Security Benefit Life Insurance Company, et al.

March 23, 1999.

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

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

APPLICANTS: Security Benefit Life Insurance Company ("Security Benefit"), T. Rowe Price Variable Annuity Account ("Separate Account"), First Security Benefit Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York ("Security Benefit-NY," together with Security Benefit, the "Insurers"), T. Rowe Price Variable Annuity Account of First Security Benefit Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York ("Separate Account-NY," together with Separate Account, the "Separate Accounts") and T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc. ("Distributor") (collectively referred to herein as "Applicants").

RELEVANT 1940 ACT SECTIONS: Exemption requested under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act from Sections 2(a)(32), 22(c), 27(i)(2)(A) and Rule 22c-1 thereunder and an amendment of an Order of Approval requested under Section 11 of the 1940 Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants seek an order on behalf of themselves, on behalf of any other person that may become a principal underwriter for contracts issued by the Insurers ("Future Underwriters") that are similar in all material respects to the flexible premium deferred or single premium immediate variable annuity contracts described in the Application (the "Contracts"), and on behalf of such other separate accounts as the Insurers shall establish in the future, which at any time may offer variable annuity contracts on a basis which is similar in all material respects to the arrangements described with respect to the Contracts ("Other Separate Accounts") (a) exempting such persons from the provisions of Sections 2(a)(32), 22(c)