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NRC PROPOSES TO AMEND REGULATIONS TO ADD FUELSOLUTIONS STORAGE CASK DESIGN TO APPROVED LIST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to amend its regulations to add the FuelSolutions cask system to the several already approved cask designs that utilities may use -- under a general license and without site-specific approval -- to store spent fuel at their nuclear power plants.

Under the terms of an NRC general license, any nuclear power reactor operator can use a pre-approved cask, if the company notifies the NRC in advance, meets the conditions of the cask's NRC certificate of compliance, and complies with NRC's regulations. These regulations include a requirement to ensure that the reactor site characteristics and potential site-boundary radiation doses are within the scope of the cask's safety analysis report and the reactor license.

The FuelSolutions certificate would contain conditions for use that are similar to others for NRC-approved casks. However, the certificate for each cask design may differ in some specific areas, such as operating procedures, training and spent fuel specifications.

The NRC staff has issued a preliminary safety evaluation report that finds, if the conditions specified in the certificate of compliance are met, adequate protection of public health and safety will be maintained. The staff's environmental assessment determined that use of the FuelSolutions cask design at reactor sites would have no significant incremental impacts on the environment.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed amendments (10 CFR Part 72 of the Commission's regulations). Comments should be submitted by September 25. The comments should be addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. Comments may also be submitted via the NRC's interactive rulemaking web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>.

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