

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Victor Nerses,
Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects-I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.
 [FR Doc. 98-30418 Filed 11-12-98; 8:45 am]
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Boiling-Water Reactor Licensees Use of the BWRVIP-05 Report To Request Relief From Augmented Examination Requirements on Reactor Pressure Vessel Circumferential Shell Welds; Issue

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Notice of Issuance.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-05 to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel, to inform them that the NRC staff has completed its review of the "BWR Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP), BWR Reactor Pressure Vessel Shell Weld Inspection Recommendations (BWRVIP-05)," and that they may request permanent (i.e., for the remaining term of operation under the existing, initial license) relief from the inservice inspection requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g) for the volumetric examination of circumferential reactor pressure vessel welds, by demonstrating that: (1) At the expiration of the license, the circumferential welds will continue to satisfy the limiting conditional failure probability for circumferential welds stated in the NRC staff's July 28, 1998, safety evaluation, and (2) licensees have implemented operator training and established procedures that limit the frequency of cold over-pressure events to that specified in the staff's July 28, 1998, safety evaluation. Addressees will still need to perform their required inspections of "essentially 100 percent" of all axial welds.

The generic letter is available in the NRC Public Document Room under accession number 9811030134.

DATES: The generic letter was issued on November 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Not applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gene Carpenter, at (301) 415-2169.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The generic letter requires no specific action or written response. Any action on the

part of an addressee to request relief from the inservice inspection requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g) is strictly voluntary.

Dated at Rockville, Md., this 10th day of November 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Jack W. Roe,
Acting Director, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-30417 Filed 11-12-98; 8:45 am]
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PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Interest Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.
ACTION: Notice of interest rates and assumptions.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public of the interest rates and assumptions to be used under certain Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation regulations. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere), but are collected and published in this notice for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC's web site (<http://www.pbgc.gov>).

DATES: The interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in November 1998. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in December 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, 202-326-4024. (For TTY/TDD users, call the Federal relay service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC's regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribe use of an assumed interest rate in determining a single-employer plan's variable-rate premium. The rate is the

"applicable percentage" (described in the statute and the regulation) of the annual yield on 30-year Treasury securities for the month preceding the beginning of the plan year for which premiums are being paid (the "premium payment year"). The yield figure is reported in Federal Reserve Statistical Releases G.13 and H.15.

For plan years beginning before July 1, 1997, the applicable percentage of the 30-year Treasury yield was 80 percent. The Retirement Protection Act of 1994 (RPA) amended ERISA section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(II) to change the applicable percentage to 85 percent, effective for plan years beginning on or after July 1, 1997. (The amendment also provides for a further increase in the applicable percentage—to 100 percent—when the Internal Revenue Service adopts new mortality tables for determining current liability.)

The assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in November 1998 is 4.26 percent (i.e., 85 percent of the 5.01 percent yield figure for October 1998).

(Under section 774(c) of the RPA, the amendment to the applicable percentage was deferred for certain regulated public utility (RPU) plans for as long as six months. The applicable percentage for RPU plans has therefore remained 80 percent for plan years beginning before January 1, 1998. For "partial" RPU plans, the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums can be computed by applying the rules in § 4006.5(g) of the premium rates regulation. The PBGC's 1997 premium payment instruction booklet also describes these rules and provides a worksheet for computing the assumed rate.)

The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between December 1997 and November 1998. The rate for December 1997 in the table (which reflects an applicable percentage of 85 percent) applies only to non-RPU plans. However, the rates for months after December 1997 apply to RPU (and "partial" RPU) plans as well as to non-RPU plans.

For premium payment years beginning in:	The assumed interest rate is:
December 1997	5.19
January 1998	5.09
February 1998	4.94
March 1998	5.01
April 1998	5.06
May 1998	5.03

For premium payment years beginning in:	The assumed interest rate is:
June 1998	5.04
July 1998	4.85
August 1998	4.83
September 1998	4.71
October 1998	4.42
November 1998	4.26

Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal

The PBGC's regulation on Duties of Plan Sponsor Following Mass Withdrawal (29 CFR part 4281) prescribes the use of interest assumptions under the PBGC's regulation on Allocation of Assets in Single-employer Plans (29 CFR part 4044). The interest assumptions applicable to valuation dates in December 1998 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. Tables showing the assumptions applicable to prior periods are codified in appendix B to 29 CFR part 4044.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 6th day of November 1998.

John Seal,

Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

[FR Doc. 98-30447 Filed 11-12-98; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

New Application Procedures for Federal Jobs (Automated Resume Processing)

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

ACTION: Notice with request for written comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces approval for Federal agencies to restrict application format for employment consideration to the resume when applications will be processed using automation.

Beginning on November 13, 1998, agencies may continue to accept the *Optional Application for Federal Employment* (OF-612), resumes, or other written formats when considering applicants for Federal employment; or agencies may choose to restrict application format to the resume when applications will be processed using automation.

The OPM pamphlet, *Applying for a Federal Job* (OF-510), which describes

what applicants should include in resumes or applications submitted for consideration for Federal jobs, will be updated to include a sample resume document and to explain new agency application processing options. Applicants can get copies of the updated pamphlet beginning in December 1998 from the USAJOBS Governmentwide Automated Employment Information System.

OPM has implemented an online resume builder on the USAJOBS web site at www.usajobs.opm.gov. The online resume builder allows applicants to prepare a resume that they can print for personal use; save and/or edit on the web site for future use; and electronically submit for agency-specified job opportunities in the Federal Jobs Database. The online resume builder contains all of the data elements outlined in the *Applying for a Federal Job* pamphlet as required for resumes submitted for Federal employment. The resume builder produces a resume suitable for both manual and electronic processing.

This action is being taken to continue and expand employment application options for both Federal agencies and job applicants.

The Office of Personnel Management and other Federal agencies rate applicants for Federal jobs under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 1104, 1302, 3301, 3304, 3320, 3361, 3393, and 3394.

DATES: Written comments will be considered if received on or before December 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver written comments to Mary Lou Lindholm, Associate Director for Employment, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Whitford at 202-606-1031 (rawhitfo@opm.gov) or Claire Gibbons at 202-606-1221 (cvgibbon@opm.gov).

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,
Director.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a December 16, 1994, **Federal Register** notice (59 FR 65086) OPM announced a new application process that became effective on January 1, 1995. Under the new procedures, agencies filling positions in the competitive service, the excepted service and the Senior Executive Service could no longer require the SF-171, *Application for Federal Employment*, as the only acceptable application form for employment, but also had to inform applicants for most jobs that they could apply with a resume, the *Optional*

Application for Federal Employment (OF-612), or any other written format of their choice, including the SF-171. Authorization of the SF-171 as an official form expired on December 31, 1994. Exceptions for the creation of special forms for unique jobs or jobs filled through automation were allowed. The new procedures were established to implement a National Performance Review (NPR) recommendation to OPM to eliminate standard forms because the length and complexity discouraged applicants from seeking Federal employment. An interagency task force of 16 Federal agencies recommended the new application procedures that let applicants choose the format of their application. The new procedures were reviewed and accepted by the National Partnership Council, the Interagency Advisory Group, unions, and organizations representing major constituency groups. As the proliferation of Government forms would be counter to the NPR objective to simplify the application process, agencies were advised that they could seek OMB approval for agency-specific forms only for unique jobs with highly specialized requirements or for special forms needed for a computer-assisted application system.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the new application process for a period of three years which ended on December 31, 1997. However, due to requests received by the Federal staffing community, authorization for the *Optional Application for Federal Employment*, OF-612, was extended for a period of three years through December 31, 2000.

At the time the Notice was issued, the use of electronic application processing systems was not widespread in Federal agencies. Now more than three years later, the staffing environment has changed. Given full delegation of examining authority and continued downsizing, agencies are looking for new ways to perform staffing work more efficiently and cost effectively. Today's automated technology allows agencies to accept employment applications via fax, email and the world wide web. Applications can be processed by automated systems that are capable of applying sophisticated search routines to evaluate the competencies, qualifications and skills that match the knowledge, skills and abilities of jobs being filled. To effectively use much of this technology, the application format must be limited to the resume.

The use of the resume is not burdensome for job applicants. The resume is the standard for applying for employment in most segments of the