

other parties (collectively identified as "Trust") pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206.

In its Petition, the Trust asserts that the Atlas site, at which there are no operations, is currently leaching toxic chemicals into the Colorado River at levels that are harming and killing endangered fish, seriously degrading the quality of at least a mile of river where these fish spawn and live, and threatening the extinction of these species. The Trust requests that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission take six immediate actions to halt these impacts and to ensure the conservation of the endangered species. The specific actions requested are as follows:

(1) Set water quality standards for the Atlas site that are protective of endangered fish and incorporate those standards into the Atlas license.

(2) Require immediate corrective action to eliminate the take of and jeopardy to endangered fish from the Atlas site.

(3) Prohibit any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources for the purpose of stabilizing and capping the tailings pile in its present location in the Colorado River floodplain until after consultation on the entire action has been completed.

(4) Require the removal of the tailings out of the floodplain of the Colorado River for long-term disposal.

(5) Consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a specific plan to conserve the endangered Colorado squawfish and razorback sucker, including, but not limited to, steps to protect the Colorado squawfish nursery areas in the vicinity of the Atlas pile.

(6) Take all other actions necessary to eliminate taking, prevent jeopardy to and insure the recovery of the Colorado squawfish and the razorback sucker, and to preserve the designated critical habitat on which these species depend.

Petitioner's requests for immediate action were denied by letter dated January 26, 1999. In the letter, it was noted that none of the six items addresses a health, safety, or environmental concern that requires emergency steps before a complete review as provided for in Section 2.206.

The Petition has been referred to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. As provided by Section 2.206, appropriate action will be taken on this Petition within a reasonable time. A copy of the Petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room

at 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Myron Fliegel, Petition Manager, Telephone (301) 415-6629.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of February, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Carl J. Paperiello,**

*Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

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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 February 1999. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in March 1999.

**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" (currently 85 percent) 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.

The assumed interest rate to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in February 1999 is 4.39 percent (*i.e.*, 85 percent of the 5.16 percent yield figure for January 1999).

The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable-rate premiums for premium payment years beginning between March 1998 and February 1999.

For premium payment years beginning in:	The assumed interest rate is:
March 1998 .....	5.01
April 1998 .....	5.06
May 1998 .....	5.03
June 1998 .....	5.04
July 1998 .....	4.85
August 1998 .....	4.83
September 1998 .....	4.71
October 1998 .....	4.42
November 1998 .....	4.26
December 1998 .....	4.46
January 1999 .....	4.30
February 1999 .....	4.39

**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 March 1999 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 8th day of February 1999.

**John Seal,**

*Acting Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.*

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