Draft Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment a draft of a new guide planned for 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 Commission'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 is temporarily identified as DG–0010, "Preparation of Petitions for Rulemaking Under 10 CFR 2.802 and Preparation and Submission of Proposals for Regulatory Guidance Documents." and is intended for Division 10, "General." DG–1037 is being developed to provide guidance to persons who submit petitions for rulemaking to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; this guidance concerns the type and quantity of information that would allow the NRC to process the petitions in an expeditious manner. The draft guide would also provide guidance on submitting proposals to change existing NRC regulatory guidance documents.

This draft guide is being issued to involve the public in the early stages of the development of a regulatory position in this area. The draft guide has not received complete staff review and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

Public comments are being solicited on the guide. Comments should be accompanied by supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Comments will be most helpful if received by September 12, 1996.

Comments may be submitted electronically, in either ASCII text or Wordperfect format (version 5.1 or later), by calling the NRC Electronic Bulletin Board on FedWorld. The bulletin board may be accessed using a personal computer, a modem, and one of the commonly available communications software packages, or directly via Internet.

If using a personal computer and modem, the NRC subsystem on FedWorld can be accessed directly by dialing the toll-free number: 1–800–303–9672. Communication software parameters should be set as follows: parity to none, data bits to 8, and stop bits to 1 (N,8,1). Using ANSI or VT–100 terminal emulation, the NRC NUREGs and RegGuides for Comment subsystem can then be accessed by selecting the "Rules Menu” option from the “NRC Main Menu.” For further information about options available for NRC at FedWorld, consult the "Help/Information Center” from the “NRC Main Menu.” Users will find the "FedWorld Online User's Guides” particularly helpful. Many NRC subsystems and databases also have a "Help/Information Center” option that is tailored to the particular subsystem.

The NRC subsystem on FedWorld can also be accessed by a direct dial phone number for the main FedWorld BBS, 703–321–3339, or by using Telnet via Internet, fedworld.gov. If using 703–321–3339 to contact FedWorld, the NRC subsystem will be accessed from the main FedWorld menu by selecting the "Regulatory, Government Administration and State Systems," then selecting "Regulatory Information Mall." At that point, a menu will be displayed that has an option "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission" that will take you to the NRC Online main menu. The NRC Online area also can be accessed directly by typing "/go rc” at a FedWorld command line. If you access NRC from FedWorld’s main menu, you may return to FedWorld by selecting the "Return to FedWorld" option from the NRC Online Main Menu. However, if you access NRC at FedWorld by using NRC's toll-free number, you will have full access to all NRC systems but you will not have access to the main FedWorld system.

If you contact FedWorld using Telnet, you will see the NRC area and menus, including the Rules menu. Although you will be able to download documentation and comments, you will not be able to write comments or upload files (comments). If you contact FedWorld using FTP, all files can be accessed and downloaded but uploads are not allowed; all you will see is a list of files without descriptions (normal Gopher look). An index file listing all files within a subdirectory, with descriptions, is included. There is a 15-minute time limit for FTP access.

Although FedWorld can be accessed through the World Wide Web, like FTP that mode only provides access for downloading files and does not display the NRC rules menus. For more information on NRC bulletin boards call Mr. Arthur Davis, Systems Integration and Development Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415–5780, e-mail AXD3@nrc.gov. For more information on this Draft Regulatory Guide DG–0010, contact T.Y. Chang at (301) 415–6450, e-mail TYC@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 final or draft 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: Distribution and Mail Services Section, or faxed to (301) 415–2260. Telephone requests cannot be accommodated. Regulatory guides are not copyrightable, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

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

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of August 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Lawrence C. Shao,
Director, Division of Engineering Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 96–20826 Filed 8–14–96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

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 provides information about interest rates and assumptions to be used for calculating the variable-rate premium payable to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and for valuing benefits in multiemployer plans following a mass withdrawal. These rates and assumptions are published elsewhere (or are derivable from rates published elsewhere); the PBGC furnishes the information in this notice simply for the convenience of the public. Interest rates are also published on the PBGC’s home page (http://www.pbgc.gov).

DATES: The interest rate for determining the variable-rate premium under part 4006 applies to premium payment years beginning in August 1996. The interest assumptions for performing multiemployer plan valuations following mass withdrawal under part 4281 apply to valuation dates occurring in September 1996.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Variable-Rate Premiums

Section 4006(a)(3)(E)(iii)(I) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and § 4006.4(b)(1) of the PBGC’s regulation on Premium Rates (29 CFR part 4006) prescribes use of an assumed interest rate in determining a single-employer plan’s variable-rate premium. The rate is a specified percentage (currently 80 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 August 1996 (i.e., 80 percent of the yield figure for July 1996) is 5.62%. The following table lists the assumed interest rates to be used in determining variable rate premiums for premium payment years beginning in the one-year period ending with August 1996.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For premium payment years beginning in</th>
<th>The required interest rate is</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1996</td>
<td>5.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1995</td>
<td>5.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1995</td>
<td>5.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1995</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1996</td>
<td>4.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1996</td>
<td>4.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1996</td>
<td>4.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1996</td>
<td>5.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1996</td>
<td>5.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1996</td>
<td>5.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1996</td>
<td>5.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1996</td>
<td>5.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 September 1996 under part 4044 are contained in an amendment to part 4044 published elsewhere in today’s Federal Register.

Issued in Washington, DC, on this 12th day of August 1996.

Martin Slate,
Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. MC96–3; Order No. 1129]

Special Services Fees and Classifications

August 8, 1996.

ACTION: Notice of expansion of scope of docket.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on August 8, 1996, the Postal Rate Commission expanded the scope of this proceeding at the request of Nashua Photo Inc. and Mystic Color Lab to include consideration of classification modification with respect to Business Reply Mail. Previous notice of the scope of this proceeding was published in the Federal Register on June 21, 1996, 61 FR 31968–312001. Interested persons wishing to participate in this matter will be considered to have good cause for not submitting a notice of intervention prior to this date, and may request intervention pursuant to Commission Rules of Practice sections 20, 20a, and 20b. 39 CFR 3001.20, 3001.20a, 3001.20b.

ADDRESSES: Comments and correspondence should be sent to Margaret Crenshaw, Secretary of the Commission, 1333 H Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001 (telephone: 202–789–6840).


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 15, 1996, Nashua Photo Inc. and Mystic Color Lab (“Nashua/Mystic”) filed a motion to enlarge the scope of this proceeding to consider an alleged inequity in the fee structure for Business Reply Mail. Nashua Photo Inc. and Mystic Color Lab Motion to Enlarge Scope of Proceeding for Consideration of Classification Modification with Respect to Business Reply Mail, July 15, 1996 (“Motion”). Presiding Officer’s ruling MC96–3/4 certified the issues raised by the Motion to the full Commission. The Commission accepts certification, and grants the Nashua/Mystic Motion.

Nashua/Mystic request that this docket address the need to establish a category of Business Reply Mail (BRM) that would be eligible for a discounted advance deposit fee comparable to the current two-cent per-piece fee charged barcoded BRM. The Motion acknowledges that the BRM generated by Nashua and Mystic is not “prebarcoded and automatable” and that such mail cannot take advantage of the Postal Service’s automated Business Reply Mail Accounting System (BRMAS). Motion at 3. It argues, however, that Nashua and Mystic have a system for processing their incoming bulk non-automatable BRM mail that reduces the Postal Service’s BRM-related costs below those of mail processed by the BRMAS system. For this reason, it contends, mail processed in this manner should be eligible for a discounted BRM fee comparable to that charged for barcoded BRM. Id. at 2.

Parties’ Arguments. The Motion alleges that the Postal Service’s refusal to charge a discounted BRM fee that reflects the costs avoided when the business reply customer handles and accounts for its own incoming mail is due, in part, to the lack of a DMCS provision for such a discount. It argues that amending DMCS Rate Schedule SS–2 to provide for a “non-automatable bulk” discount category for BRM processes’ bulk handling and accounting methods approved by the Postal Service would remedy the