DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Revision of Information Collection; Comment Request; Prohibited Transaction Exemptions 76–1 and 77–10

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This helps to ensure that required data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

The Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration is soliciting comments concerning revision of two currently approved information collection requests (ICRs), Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1, OMB Number 1210–0058, and Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10, OMB Number 1210–0081. The Department proposes to revise the ICR currently approved under OMB Number 1210–0058 by incorporating the information collection provisions of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10 into OMB Number 1210–0058, and allowing OMB Number 1210–0081 to expire on April 30, 2000. A copy of the ICR may be obtained by contacting the office listed in the addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office shown in the addresses section below on or before March 27, 2000.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1 permits parties in interest, under specified conditions, to (A) make delinquent employer contributions; (B) receive loans; and (C) and, obtain office space, administrative services and goods from plans. In the absence of this exemption, certain aspects of these transactions might be prohibited by section 406(a) and 407(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act).

Under Part C of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1, a multiple employer plan may provide administrative services or goods to a participating employer, a union, or another plan which is a party in interest. Under section 406(b)(2) of the Act, however, fiduciaries are prohibited from involving an employee benefit plan on behalf of a party (or representing a party) whose interests are adverse to the interests of a plan or to the interests of its participants or beneficiaries. Therefore, transactions between parties in interest involving administrative goods and services, exempt under the terms of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1, might still be prohibited under section 406(b)(2) in the absence of a separate exemption. Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10, authorizes a multiple employer plan to provide the goods and services described in Part C if certain conditions are met and provides relief from the provisions of section 406(b)(2).

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Department is particularly interested in comments which:

• Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
• Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
• Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
• Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. Current Actions

Because Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10 (OMB Number 1210–0081) complements Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1 (OMB Number 1210–0058), the Department proposes to combine the information collection provisions of both under one OMB control number (OMB Number 1210–0058). The Department believes the public will benefit by having the opportunity to comment on the information collection provisions at the same time because Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10 is not likely to be used without its counterpart Prohibited Transaction Class Exemptions 76–1, Part C, and because the paperwork burden for both exemptions is essentially a single burden. After the information collection provisions of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10 are incorporated in the revised ICR under OMB Number 1210–0058, the Department intends to allow the control number for Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10 to expire.

The existing collection of information under Prohibited Transaction Class Exemptions 76–1 and 77–10 should be continued because without the relief provided by these exemptions, contributing employers would not be able to make late or partial payments to plans, even in justifiable circumstances; contributing employers would be unable to obtain construction financing from plans and the plans would be denied this investment opportunity; and plans would not be able to receive income from leasing available office space or providing services to certain parties in interest.

The recordkeeping requirements incorporated within Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1 are intended to protect the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries. Each part of the exemption differs somewhat in paperwork. Under Part A, the terms of an arrangement or agreement between a plan and a participating employer extending time for a contributing or accepting less than the amount owed must be set forth in writing. Also, a determination by a plan to consider an unpaid employer contributing as uncollectible must be set forth in writing. Under Part B, before a construction loan is made by a plan to a participating employer, the employer and the plan must receive a written commitment for permanent financing from a person other than the plan concerning full repayment of the loan upon completion of construction. In
addition, the plan must maintain for six years such records as are necessary to enable the Department, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), plan participants, beneficiaries, participating employers, and others to determine whether the conditions of the exemptions have been met. Part C permits plans to lease office space and provide administrative services or sell goods to a participating employer or union or to another plan. Under Part C, the plan must maintain for six years following the date of termination of the lease or of the provision of services such records as are necessary to enable persons from the Department, IRS, and other related parties to determine whether the conditions of the exemption have been met.

Information collection under Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 77–10 requires that a multiple employer plan which shares office space, administrative services, or goods or which provides administrative services or goods (as under Part C of Prohibited Transaction Exemption 76–1), maintain, during the time of the transactions and six years from the time of termination, such records as are necessary to enable the Department, IRS, and other related parties to determine whether the conditions of the exemption have been met. The recordkeeping requirements are intended to protect the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries and are essentially the same recordkeeping requirements as under Part C of Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 76–1.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection of information.

Agency: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

Titles: Prohibited Transaction Class Exemptions 76–1 and 77–10.

OMB Number: 1210–0058.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Respondents: 3,000.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Responses: 3,000.

Average Time per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 750.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–423]

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al., Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3; Notice of Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Facility; Operating License and Conforming Amendment, and Opportunity for a Hearing; Correction

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a notice appearing in the Federal Register on January 19, 2000 (64 FR 2990). This action is necessary to correct the comment period expiration date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Washington, D.C. 20555–0001, telephone 301–415–7162, e-mail dlm1@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. On page 2991, in the second column, the first complete paragraph, in the first line, February 7, 2000, is corrected to read February 8, 2000.

2. On page 2991, in the third column, the first complete paragraph, in the third line, February 17, 2000, is corrected to read February 18, 2000.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David L. Meyer,
Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration.

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BILLING CODE 4510–29–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–361 and 50–362]

Southern California Edison Company, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing; Correction

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects a notice appearing in the Federal Register on January 19, 2000 (64 FR 2993). This