



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 72

[NRC-2024-0034]

RIN 3150-AL07

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewal of Initial Certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its spent fuel storage regulations by revising the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listing within the “List of approved spent fuel storage casks” to renew the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of Certificate of Compliance No. 1015. The renewal of the initial certificate of compliance and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 for 40 years changes the certificate’s conditions and technical specifications to address aging management activities related to the structures, systems, and components important to safety of the dry storage system to ensure that these will maintain their intended functions during the period of extended storage operations.

DATES: This direct final rule is effective [INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*] unless significant adverse comments are received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. If the direct final rule is withdrawn as a result of such

comments, timely notice of the withdrawal will be published in the *Federal Register*. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date. Comments received on this direct final rule will also be considered to be comments on a companion proposed rule published in the Proposed Rules section of this issue of the *Federal Register*.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID NRC-2024-0034 at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov>, call or email the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document for alternate instructions.

You can read a plain language description of this direct final rule at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NRC-2024-0034>. For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Markley, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone: 301-415-6293, email: Christopher.Markley@nrc.gov and Greg Trussell, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone: 301-415-6244, email: Gregory.Trussell@nrc.gov. Both are staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2024-0034 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2024-0034. Address questions about NRC dockets to Helen Chang, telephone: 301-415- 3228, email: Helen.Chang@nrc.gov. For technical questions contact the individuals listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this document.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.resource@nrc.gov. For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the "Availability of Documents" section.

- **NRC's PDR:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR,

please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website (<https://www.regulations.gov>). Please include Docket ID NRC-2024-0034 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Rulemaking Procedure

This direct final rule is limited to the changes contained in the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 to Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1015 and does not include other aspects of NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design. The NRC is using the “direct final rule procedure” to issue this renewal because this action represents a limited and routine change to an existing CoC that is expected to be non-controversial and, accordingly, is unlikely to result in significant

adverse comments. Adequate protection of public health and safety continues to be reasonably assured. The amendment to the rule will become effective on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**. However, if the NRC receives any significant adverse comment on this direct final rule by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**, then the NRC will publish a document that withdraws this action and will subsequently address the comments received in a final rule as a response to the companion proposed rule published in the Proposed Rules section of this issue of the *Federal Register* or as otherwise appropriate. In general, absent significant modifications to the proposed revisions requiring republication, the NRC will not initiate a second comment period on this action.

A significant adverse comment is a comment where the commenter explains why the rule would be inappropriate, including challenges to the rule's underlying premise or approach, or would be ineffective or unacceptable without a change. A comment is adverse and significant if:

1) The comment opposes the rule and provides a reason sufficient to require a substantive response in a notice-and-comment process. For example, a substantive response is required when:

a) The comment causes the NRC to reevaluate (or reconsider) its position or conduct additional analysis;

b) The comment raises an issue serious enough to warrant a substantive response to clarify or complete the record; or

c) The comment raises a relevant issue that was not previously addressed or considered by the NRC.

2) The comment proposes a change or an addition to the rule, and it is apparent that the rule would be ineffective or unacceptable without incorporation of the change or addition.

3) The comment causes the NRC to make a change (other than editorial) to the

rule, CoC, or technical specifications.

III. Background

Section 218(a) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, requires that “[t]he Secretary [of the Department of Energy] shall establish a demonstration program, in cooperation with the private sector, for the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel at civilian nuclear power reactor sites, with the objective of establishing one or more technologies that the [Nuclear Regulatory] Commission may, by rule, approve for use at the sites of civilian nuclear power reactors without, to the maximum extent practicable, the need for additional site-specific approvals by the Commission.” Section 133 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act states, in part, that “[t]he Commission shall, by rule, establish procedures for the licensing of any technology approved by the Commission under Section 219(a) [sic: 218(a)] for use at the site of any civilian nuclear power reactor.”

To implement this mandate, the Commission approved dry storage of spent nuclear fuel in NRC-approved casks under a general license by publishing a final rule that added a new subpart K in part 72 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) entitled “General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites” (55 FR 29181; July 18, 1990). This rule also established a new subpart L in 10 CFR part 72 entitled “Approval of Spent Fuel Storage Casks,” which contains procedures and criteria for obtaining NRC approval of spent fuel storage cask designs. The NRC subsequently issued a final rule on October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62581), that approved the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design and added it to the list of NRC-approved cask designs in § 72.214 as CoC No. 1015.

On August 28, 2007 (72 FR 49352), the NRC amended the scope of the general licenses issued under § 72.210 to include the storage of spent fuel in an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at power reactor sites to persons authorized to possess or operate nuclear power reactors under 10 CFR part 52. On February 16, 2011

(76 FR 8872), the NRC amended subparts K and L in 10 CFR part 72, to extend and clarify the term limits for certificates of compliance and to revise the conditions for spent fuel storage casks renewals, including adding requirements for the safety analysis report to include time-limited aging analyses and a description of aging management programs. The NRC also clarified the terminology used in the regulations to use “renewal” rather than “reapproval” to better reflect that extending the term of a currently approved cask design is based on the cask design standards in effect at the time the CoC was approved rather than current standards.

IV. Discussion of Changes

The term certified by the initial CoC No. 1015 was 20 years. The period of extended operation for each cask begins 20 years after the cask is first used by the general licensee to store spent fuel. On October 13, 2020, NAC International, Inc. submitted a request to the NRC to renew CoC No. 1015 for a period of 40 years beyond the initial certificate period and Amendment Nos. 1 through 7 to Certificate of Compliance No. 1015 for the NAC-UMS[®] Universal Storage System. NAC International, Inc. supplemented its request on March 3, 2022; March 18, 2022 (adding Amendment Nos. 8 and 9 to the request); July 28, 2022; and December 21, 2022.

The NAC-UMS Universal Storage System (the system) is certified as described in the Safety Analysis Report (SAR) and in NRC’s Safety Evaluation Report (SER) accompanying the CoC. The system consists of the following components: (1) transportable storage canister (TSC), which contains the spent fuel; (2) vertical concrete cask (VCC), which contains the TSC during storage; and (3) a transfer cask, which contains the TSC during loading, unloading, and transfer operations.

The original CoC for the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System included designs for the storage of five classes of TSCs, including three lengths for pressurized-water reactor (PWR) fuel types and two lengths for boiling-water reactor (BWR) fuel types. The system included a TSC provided with integral fuel baskets for the storage of up to 24

PWR and 56 BWR spent nuclear fuel assemblies. Subsequently, the NRC issued nine amendments to the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System CoC.

The Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) document NEI 14-03, Revision 2, "Format, Content and Implementation Guidance for Dry Cask Storage Operations-Based Aging Management," (December 2016) provides an operations-based, learning approach to aging management for the storage of spent fuel, which builds on the lessons learned from industry's experience with aging management for reactors. The NRC endorsed NEI 14-03, Revision 2, with clarifications, in Regulatory Guide 3.76, Revision 0, "Implementation of Aging Management Requirements for Spent Fuel Storage Renewals," issued July 2021. Specifically, NEI 14-03 provides a framework for sharing operating experience through an industry-developed database called the ISFSI Aging Management Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Database. NEI 14-03 also includes a framework for learning aging management programs using aging management "tollgates," which offer a structured approach for periodically assessing operating experience and data from applicable research and industry initiatives at specific times during the period of extended operation and performing a safety assessment that confirms the safe storage of the spent nuclear fuel by ensuring the aging management programs continue to effectively manage the identified aging effects. The ISFSI Aging Management Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Database provides operating experience information and a basis to support licensees' future changes to the aging management programs. The ISFSI Aging Management Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Database and the aging management tollgates are considered key elements in ensuring the effectiveness of aging management activities and the continued safe storage of spent fuel during the period of extended operation.

NAC International Inc., incorporated periodic tollgate assessments as requirements in the renewed certificate of compliance, as recommended in NEI 14-03, Revision 2. The implementation of tollgate assessments provides reasonable assurance that the aging management programs for the canister, the transfer cask, and the

overpack will continue to effectively manage aging effects during the period of extended operation.

The renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 was conducted in accordance with the renewal provisions in § 72.240. The NRC's regulations require the safety analysis report for the renewal to include time-limited aging analyses that demonstrate that structures, systems, and components important to safety will continue to perform their intended function for the requested period of extended operation and a description of the aging management programs for the management of issues associated with aging that could adversely affect structures, systems, and components important to safety. The NRC spent fuel storage regulations in 10 CFR 72.240 authorize the NRC to revise the CoC to include any additional terms, conditions, and specifications it deems necessary to ensure the safe operation of the cask during the CoC's renewal term. Here, the NRC is adding three new conditions to the renewal of the CoC to address aging management activities related to the structures, systems, and components important to the safety of the dry storage system to ensure that these will maintain their intended functions during the period of extended storage operations. This would ensure the safe operation of the cask during the CoC's renewal term and would allow the use of the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System during the approved period of extended operation. Additionally, the NRC is amending the condition that describes the authorization for use of the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design under the general license.

The three new conditions added to the renewal of the initial CoC and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 are the following:

- A condition requiring the CoC holder to submit an updated final safety analysis report within 90 days after the effective date of the renewal. The updated final safety analysis report must reflect the changes resulting from the review and approval of the renewal of the CoC, including the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System final safety analysis report. This

condition ensures that final safety analysis report changes are made in a timely fashion to enable general licensees using the storage system during the period of extended operation to develop and implement necessary procedures related to renewal and aging management activities. The CoC holder is required to continue to update the final safety analysis report pursuant to the requirements of § 72.248.

- A condition requiring each general licensee using the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design to include, in the evaluations required by § 72.212(b)(5), evaluations related to the terms, conditions, and specifications of this CoC amendment as modified (i.e., changed or added) as a result of the renewal of the CoC and include, in the document review required by § 72.212(b)(6), a review of the final safety analysis report changes resulting from the renewal of the CoC and the NRC Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the renewal of the CoC. The general licensee would also be required to ensure that the evaluations required by § 72.212(b)(7) in response to these changes are conducted and the determination required by § 72.212(b)(8) is made. This condition also makes it clear that to meet the requirements in § 72.212(b)(11), general licensees that currently use a NAC-UMS Universal Storage System will need to update their § 72.212 reports, even if they do not put additional NAC-UMS Universal Storage Systems into service after the renewal's effective date. These evaluations, reviews, and determinations are to be completed before the dry storage system enters the period of extended operation (which begins 20 years after the first use of the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System) or no later than 365 days after the effective date of this rule, whichever is later. This will provide general licensees a minimum of 365 days to comply with the new terms, conditions, specifications, and other changes to the CoC and to make the necessary

determinations required by § 72.212(b)(8) as to whether activities related to the storage of spent nuclear fuel using the renewed CoC involve a change in the facility Technical Specifications or requires a license amendment for the facility.

- A condition requiring all future amendments and revisions to the CoC (i.e., the initial certificate 1015 and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9) include evaluations of the impacts to aging management activities (i.e., time-limited aging analyses and aging management programs) to ensure that they remain adequate for any changes to structures, systems, and components important to safety within the scope of renewal. This condition ensures that future amendments to the CoC address the renewed design bases for the CoC, including aging management impacts that may arise from any changes to the system in proposed future amendments.

Additionally, the condition for the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 would be amended to reflect changes to the scope of the general license granted by § 72.210 that were made after the approval of the initial certificate. The authorization is amended to allow persons authorized to possess or operate a nuclear power reactor under 10 CFR part 52 to use the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System under the general license issued under § 72.210.

The NRC made one corresponding change from the technical specifications for the initial CoC and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 by adding a section addressing the aging management program. General licensees using the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design during the period of extended operation will need to establish, implement, and maintain written procedures for each applicable aging management program in the final safety analysis report to use the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design during the approved period of extended operation. The procedures will need to include provisions for changing aging management program elements, as necessary, and within

the limitations of the approved design bases to address new information on aging effects based on inspection findings and/or industry operating experience provided to the general licensee during the renewal period. The program document must contain a reference to the specific aspect of the aging management program element implemented by that procedure, and that reference must be maintained even if the procedure is modified.

General licensees will need to establish and implement these written procedures prior to entering the period of extended operation (which begins 20 years after the first use of the cask system) or no later than 365 days after the effective date of this direct final rule, whichever is later. The general licensee is required to maintain these written procedures for as long as the general licensee continues to operate NAC-UMS Universal Storage System in service for longer than 20 years.

Under § 72.240(d), the design of a spent fuel storage cask will be renewed if (1) the quality assurance requirements in 10 CFR part 72, subpart G, "Quality Assurance," are met; (2) the requirements of 10 CFR 72.236(a) through (i) are met; and (3) the application includes a demonstration that the storage of spent fuel has not, in a significant manner, adversely affected the structures, systems, and components important to safety. Additionally, § 72.240(c) requires that the safety analysis report accompanying the application contain time-limited aging analyses that demonstrate that the structures, systems, and components important to safety will continue to perform their intended function for the requested period of extended operation and a description of the aging management program for management of aging issues that could adversely affect structures, systems, and components important to safety.

As documented in the preliminary safety evaluation report, the NRC reviewed the application for the renewal of the CoC and the conditions in the CoC and determined that the conditions in subpart G, § 72.236(a) through (i), have been met and that the application includes a demonstration that the storage of spent nuclear fuel has not, in a significant manner, adversely affected structures, systems, and components important to

safety. The NRC's safety review determined that the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System, with the added terms, conditions, and specifications in the CoC and the technical specifications, will continue to meet the requirements of 10 CFR part 72 for an additional 40 years beyond the initial certificate term. Consistent with § 72.240, the NRC is renewing the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System initial certificate 1015 and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9.

Extending the expiration date of the approval for the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 for 40 years and requiring the implementation of aging management activities during the period of extended operation does not impose any modification or addition to the design of a cask system's structures, systems, and components important to safety, or to the procedures or organization required to operate the system during the initial 20-year storage term certified by the cask's initial CoC. General licensees who have loaded these casks, or who load these casks in the future under the specifications of the applicable renewed CoC, may store spent fuel in these cask system designs for 20 years without implementing the aging management program. For any casks that have been in use for more than 20 years, the general licensee will have 365 days to complete the analyses required to use the cask system design pursuant to the terms and conditions in the renewed CoC. As explained in the 2011 final rule that amended 10 CFR part 72 (76 FR 8872), the general licensee's authority to use a particular storage cask design under an approved CoC will be for at least the term certified by the cask's CoC. For casks placed into service before the expiration date of the initial certificate, the general licensee's authority to use the cask would be extended for an additional 40 years from the date the initial certificate expired. For casks placed into service after the expiration date of the initial certificate and before the effective date of this rule, the general licensee's authority to use the cask would last the length of the term certified by the cask's CoC (*i.e.*, 40 years after the cask is placed into service). For casks placed into service after this rule becomes effective, the general licensee's authority to use the cask would expire 40 years after the cask is first placed into service.

This direct final rule revises the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design listing in § 72.214 by renewing, for 40 more years, the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of CoC No. 1015. The renewed CoC includes the changes to the CoC and technical specifications previously described. The renewed CoC includes terms, conditions, and specifications that will ensure the safe operation of the cask during the renewal term and the added conditions that will require the implementation of an aging management program. The preliminary safety evaluation report describes the new and revised conditions in the CoC, the changes to the technical specifications, and the NRC staff evaluation.

V. Voluntary Consensus Standards

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113) requires that Federal agencies use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies unless the use of such a standard is inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. In this direct final rule, the NRC revises the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design listed in § 72.214, “List of approved spent fuel storage casks.” This action does not constitute the establishment of a standard that contains generally applicable requirements.

VI. Agreement State Compatibility

Under the “Agreement State Program Policy Statement” approved by the Commission on October 2, 2017, and published in the *Federal Register* on October 18, 2017 (82 FR 48535), this rule is classified as Compatibility Category NRC – Areas of Exclusive NRC Regulatory Authority. The NRC program elements in this category are those that relate directly to areas of regulation reserved to the NRC by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, or the provisions of 10 CFR chapter I. Therefore, compatibility is not required for program elements in this category.

VII. Plain Writing

The Plain Writing Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-274) requires Federal agencies to write documents in a clear, concise, and well-organized manner. The NRC has written this document to be consistent with the Plain Writing Act as well as the Presidential Memorandum, "Plain Language in Government Writing," published June 10, 1998 (63 FR 31885).

VIII. Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the NRC's regulations in 10 CFR part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," the NRC has determined that this direct final rule, if adopted, would not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. The NRC has made a finding of no significant impact based on this environmental assessment.

A. The Action

The action is to amend § 72.214 to change the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listing within the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" to renew, for an additional 40 years, the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of CoC No. 1015.

B. The Need for the Action

This direct final rule renews the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of CoC No. 1015 for the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System

design within the list of approved spent fuel storage casks to allow power reactor licensees to store spent fuel at reactor sites in casks with the approved modifications under a general license. Specifically, this direct final rule extends the expiration date for the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System certificate for an additional 40 years, allowing a power reactor licensee to continue using the cask design during a period of extended operation for a term certified by the cask's renewed CoC.

The new conditions added to the renewal of the initial CoC and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 are:

- A condition for submitting an updated final safety analysis report to the NRC, in accordance with § 72.4, within 90 days after the effective date of the CoC renewal.
- A condition for renewed CoC use during the period of extended operation to ensure that a general licensee's report prepared under § 72.212 evaluates the appropriate considerations for the period of extended operation. All future amendments and revisions to this CoC must include evaluations of the impacts to aging management activities.
- The NRC is revising the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 to address the language change in § 72.210 "General license issue" and other updates to the regulations.
- A condition requiring all future amendments and revisions to the CoC (i.e., the initial certificate 1015 and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9) include evaluations of the impacts to aging management activities (i.e., time-limited aging analyses and aging management programs) to ensure that they remain adequate for any changes to structures, systems, and components important to safety within the scope of renewal.

The NRC will also make various corrections and editorial changes to the CoC and TSs.

C. Environmental Impacts of the Action

On July 18, 1990 (55 FR 29181), the NRC issued an amendment to 10 CFR part 72 to provide for the storage of spent fuel under a general license in cask designs approved by the NRC. The potential environmental impacts of using NRC-approved storage casks were analyzed in the environmental assessment for the 1990 final rule and are described in “Environmental Assessment for Proposed Rule Entitled, ‘Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites.’” The potential environmental impacts for the longer-term use of dry cask designs and the renewal of certificates of compliance were analyzed in the environmental assessment for the 2011 final rule establishing the regulatory requirements for renewing certificates of compliance and are described in “Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Final Rule Amending 10 CFR Part 72 License and Certificate of Compliance Terms.” The environmental impacts from continued storage were also considered in NUREG-2157, “Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel.” The environmental assessment for the renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of CoC No. 1015 tiers off of the environmental assessment for the February 16, 2011, final rule and NUREG-2157. Tiering on past environmental assessments is a standard process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The NAC-UMS Universal Storage System is designed to mitigate the effects of design basis accidents that could occur during storage. Design basis accidents account for human-induced events and the most severe natural phenomena reported for the site and surrounding area. Postulated accidents analyzed for an independent spent fuel storage installation, the type of facility at which a holder of a power reactor operating license would store spent fuel in casks in accordance with 10 CFR part 72, can include tornado winds and tornado-generated missiles, a design basis earthquake, a design basis flood, an accidental cask drop, lightning effects, fire, explosions, and other incidents.

A renewal reaffirms the original design basis and allows the cask to be used during a period of extended operation that corresponds to the term certified by the cask's CoC in the renewal. As a condition of the renewal, the NRC requires an aging management program that will ensure that structures, systems, and components important to safety will perform as designers intended during the renewal period. The renewal does not reflect a change in design or fabrication of the cask system. This renewal does not reflect a significant change in design or fabrication of the cask. Because there are no significant design or process changes, any resulting occupational exposure or offsite dose rates from the renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 would remain well within the 10 CFR part 20 limits. The NRC has also determined that the design of the cask would continue to maintain confinement, shielding, and criticality control in the event of an accident. Therefore, these changes would not result in any radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts that significantly differ from the environmental impacts evaluated in the environmental assessment supporting the February 16, 2011, final rule. There will be no significant change in the types or significant revisions in the amounts of any effluent released, no significant increase in the individual or cumulative radiation exposures, and no significant increase in the potential for, or consequences from, radiological accidents. The NRC determined that the structures, systems, and components important to safety will continue to perform their intended functions during the requested period of extended operation. The NRC determined that the renewed NAC-UMS Universal Storage System, when used under the conditions specified in the renewed CoC, the technical specifications, and the NRC's regulations, will meet the requirements of 10 CFR part 72; therefore, adequate protection of public health and safety will continue to be reasonably assured. The NRC documented its safety findings in the preliminary SER.

Based on the previously stated assessments and its preliminary SER for the requested renewal of the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System CoC, the NRC has determined that the expiration date of this system in 10 CFR 72.214 can be safely

extended for an additional 40 years, and that commercial nuclear power reactor licensees can continue using the system during this period under a general license without significant impacts on the human environment.

D. Alternative to the Action

The alternative to this action is to deny the renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 and not issue the direct final rule. Consequently, any 10 CFR part 72 general licensee that seeks to load spent nuclear fuel into the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System after the expiration date of the CoC or that seeks to continue storing spent nuclear fuel in the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System for longer than the term certified by the cask's CoC for the initial certificate (i.e., more than 20 years) would have to request an exemption from the requirements of §§ 72.212 and 72.214 or would have to load the spent nuclear fuel into a different approved cask design. Under this alternative, those licensees interested in continuing to use the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System would have to prepare, and the NRC would have to review, a separate exemption request, thereby increasing the administrative burden upon the NRC and the costs to each licensee. If the general licensee is granted an exemption, the environmental impacts would be the same as the proposed action. If the general licensee is not granted an exemption, the general licensee would need to unload the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System and load the fuel into another cask system design, which would result in environmental impacts that are greater than for the proposed action because activities associated with cask loading and decontamination may result in some small liquid and gaseous effluent.

E. Alternative Use of Resources

Renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 to CoC No. 1015 would result in no irreversible commitment of resources.

F. Agencies and Persons Contacted

No agencies or persons outside the NRC were contacted in connection with the preparation of this environmental assessment.

G. Finding of No Significant Impact

This direct final rule is to amend § 72.214 to revise the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System listing within the “List of approved spent fuel storage casks” to renew, for an additional 40 years, the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of CoC No. 1015. The environmental impacts of the action have been reviewed under the requirements in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the NRC’s regulations in subpart A of 10 CFR part 51, “Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions.” The renewal does not reflect a change in design or fabrication of the cask system as approved for the initial certificate or Amendment Nos. 1 through 9. The NRC determined that the renewed NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design, when used under the conditions specified in the renewed CoC, the technical specifications, and the NRC’s regulations, will meet the requirements of 10 CFR part 72; therefore, adequate protection of public health and safety will continue to be reasonably assured.

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that this direct final rule, “List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System, Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewal of Initial Certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9,” will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the NRC has determined that an environmental impact statement is not necessary for this direct final rule.

IX. Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This direct final rule does not contain any new or amended collections of

information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Existing collections of information were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0132.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

X. Regulatory Flexibility Certification

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), the NRC certifies that this direct final rule will not, if issued, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This direct final rule affects only nuclear power plant licensees and NAC International, Inc. These entities do not fall within the scope of the definition of small entities set forth in the Regulatory Flexibility Act or the size standards established by the NRC (§ 2.810).

XI. Regulatory Analysis

On July 18, 1990 (55 FR 29181), the NRC issued an amendment to 10 CFR part 72 to provide for the storage of spent nuclear fuel under a general license in cask designs approved by the NRC. Any nuclear power reactor licensee can use NRC-approved cask designs to store spent nuclear fuel if 1) it notifies the NRC in advance; 2) the spent fuel is stored under the conditions specified in the cask's CoC; and 3) the conditions of the general license are met. A list of NRC-approved cask

designs is contained in § 72.214. On October 19, 2000 (65 FR 62581), the NRC issued an amendment to 10 CFR part 72 that approved the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design by adding it to the list of NRC-approved cask designs in § 72.214.

On October 13, 2020, NAC International, Inc. submitted a request to the NRC to renew, for an additional 40 years, the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 7 of CoC No. 1015 for the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System. NAC International, Inc. supplemented its request on March 3, 2022; March 18, 2022 (adding Amendment Nos. 8 and 9 to the request); July 28, 2022; and December 21, 2022. Because NAC International, Inc. filed its renewal application at least 30 days before the certificate expiration date of November 20, 2020, pursuant to the timely renewal provisions in § 72.240(b), the initial issuance of the certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 of CoC No. 1015 did not expire.

The alternative to this action is to withhold approval of the renewal of the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 and to require any 10 CFR part 72 general licensee seeking to continue the storage of spent nuclear fuel in NAC-UMS Universal Storage System using the initial certificate or Amendment Nos. 1 through 9 beyond the initial 20-year storage term certified by the cask's initial CoC to request an exemption from the requirements of §§ 72.212 and 72.214. The term for general licenses would not be extended from 20 years to 40 years. Under this alternative, each interested 10 CFR part 72 licensee would have to prepare, and the NRC would have to review, a separate exemption request, thereby increasing the administrative burden upon the NRC and the costs to each licensee.

Approval of this direct final rule is consistent with previous NRC actions. Further, as documented in the preliminary SER and environmental assessment, this direct final rule will have no adverse effect on public health and safety or the environment. This direct final rule has no significant identifiable impact or benefit on other government agencies. Based on this regulatory analysis, the NRC concludes that the requirements of this direct final rule are commensurate with the NRC's responsibilities for public health

and safety and the common defense and security. No other available alternative is believed to be as satisfactory; therefore, this action is recommended.

XII. Backfitting and Issue Finality

The NRC has determined that the actions in this direct final rule do not constitute backfitting because they do not meet the definition of backfitting under § 72.62. That definition states that backfitting means the addition, elimination, or modification, after the license has been issued, of the structures, systems, or components of an ISFSI or the procedures or organization required to operate an ISFSI. Certificate of compliance holders like NAC International, Inc. are not within the scope of the backfit rule in § 72.62.

Certificate of Compliance No. 1015 for the NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System design, as currently listed in § 72.214, "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks," was initially approved for a 20-year term. This direct final rule would renew the initial certificate and Amendment Nos. 1 through 9, extending their approval period by 40 years. With this renewal, the term certified by the cask's CoC would change from 20 years to 40 years, with the period of extended operation beginning 20 years after the cask is placed into service. Because the term for the renewal would be longer than the initial term certified by the cask's CoC, the general licensee's authority to use the cask also would be extended to 40 years. Further, the revision to the CoC through the renewal would require implementation of aging management programs during the period of extended operation.

Renewing these certificates does not fall within the definition of backfitting under § 72.62 during the COC's initial 20-year term. General licensees who have loaded these casks, or who load these casks in the future under the specifications of the applicable certificate, may continue to store spent fuel in these systems for the initial 20-year storage period authorized by the original certificate. Extending the certificates' expiration dates for 40 more years and requiring the implementation of aging management

programs does not impose any modification or addition to the design of the structures, systems, and components important to safety of a cask system, or to the procedures or organization required to operate the system during this initial 20-year term certified by the cask's CoC. The aging management programs required to be implemented by this renewal are only required to be implemented after the storage cask system's initial 20-year service period ends.

General licensees using the existing systems subject to these renewals are not required to continue using these systems following the end of the initial 20-year storage period. If general licensees choose to continue to store spent fuel in the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System after the initial 20-year period, these general licensees will be required to implement aging management activities for any cask systems subject to a renewed CoC. Such continued use is voluntary, so renewing the CoC with aging management program conditions does not constitute backfitting under § 72.62 for these general licensees.

XIII. Congressional Review Act

This direct final rule is not a rule as defined in the Congressional Review Act.

XIV. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons, as indicated.

DOCUMENT	ADAMS ACCESSION NO. / WEB LINK / <i>FEDERAL REGISTER</i> CITATION
Proposed Certificate of Compliance	
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Initial Certificate	ML23213A151
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 1	ML23213A152
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 2	ML23213A153

Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 3	ML23213A154
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 4	ML23213A155
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 5	ML23213A156
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 6	ML23213A157
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 7	ML23213A158
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 8	ML23213A159
Proposed Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Renewed Amendment 9	ML23213A160
Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report	
Preliminary Safety Evaluation Report for Renewed Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, Amendments Nos. 1 through 9	ML23213A161
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications	
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Initial Certificate	ML23213A164
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 1	ML23213A166
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 2	ML23213A168
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 3, Appendix A	ML23213A171
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 3, Appendix B	ML23213A178
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 4, Appendix A	ML23213A172
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 4, Appendix B	ML23213A179
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 5, Appendix A	ML23213A173
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 5, Appendix B	ML23213A180
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 6, Appendix A	ML23213A174
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 6, Appendix B	ML23213A181

Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 7, Appendix A	ML23213A175
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 7, Appendix B	ML23213A182
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 8, Appendix A	ML23213A176
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 8, Appendix B	ML23213A183
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 9, Appendix A	ML23213A177
Proposed Conditions for Cask Use and Technical Specifications, Renewed Amendment 9, Appendix B	ML23213A184
Environmental Documents	
“Environmental Assessment for Proposed Rule Entitled, “Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites.” (1989)	ML051230231
“Environmental Assessment and Findings of No Significant Impact for the Final Rule Amending 10 CFR Part 72 License and Certificate of Compliance Terms.” (2010)	ML100710441
Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel: Final Report (NUREG-2157, Volumes 1 and 2). (2014)	ML14198A440 (package)
NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System Renewal Application Documents	
NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Universal Storage System, Certificate of Compliance (CoC) Renewal Application, October 13, 2020	ML20293A102
NAC International, Inc., Request for Additional Information Responses NAC-UMS Cask System, Revision 22A, March 3, 2022	ML22062A764
Replacement Page for Responses to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) Request for Additional Information for the Request to Renew the NAC-UMS Cask System Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, March 18, 2022	ML22077A076
NAC, Supplement to the NRC’s Request for Additional Information for the Request to Renew the NAC-UMS Cask System Certificate of Compliance No. 1015, July 28, 2022	ML22209A078 (package)
Request to Withdraw Administrative Controls for Adverse Weather Events During Operations from NAC-MPC CoC Renewal Application, December 21, 2022	ML22355A120

Other Documents	
“General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites.” (July 18, 1990)	55 FR 29181
“Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants.” (August 28, 2007)	72 FR 49352
“License and Certificate of Compliance Terms.” (February 16, 2011)	76 FR 8872
“Agreement State Program Policy Statement; Correction.” (October 18, 2017)	82 FR 48535
Nuclear Energy Institute NEI 14-03, Revision 2, “Format, Content and Implementation Guidance for Dry Cask Storage Operations-Based Aging Management.” (December 21, 2016)	ML16356A210
Regulatory Guide 3.76, Revision 0, “Implementation of Aging Management Requirements for Spent Fuel Storage Renewals.” (July 31, 2021)	ML21098A022
“List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC-UMS Addition.” (October 19, 2000)	65 FR 62581
Presidential Memorandum, “Plain Language in Government Writing.” (June 10, 1998)	63 FR 31885

The NRC may post materials related to this document, including public comments, on the Federal Rulemaking Web site at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2024-0034. In addition, the Federal rulemaking website allows members of the public to receive alerts when changes or additions occur in a docket folder. To subscribe: 1) navigate to the docket folder (NRC-2024-0034); 2) click the “Subscribe” link; and 3) enter an email address and click on the “Subscribe” link.

List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 72

Administrative practice and procedure, Hazardous waste, Indians, Intergovernmental relations, Nuclear energy, Penalties, Radiation protection, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Spent fuel, Whistleblowing.

For the reasons set out in the preamble and under the authority of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended;

the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended; and 5 U.S.C. 552 and 553; the NRC is adopting the following amendments to 10 CFR part 72:

PART 72 - LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL, HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE, AND REACTOR-RELATED GREATER THAN CLASS C WASTE

1. The authority citation for part 72 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Atomic Energy Act of 1954, secs. 51, 53, 57, 62, 63, 65, 69, 81, 161, 182, 183, 184, 186, 187, 189, 223, 234, 274 (42 U.S.C. 2071, 2073, 2077, 2092, 2093, 2095, 2099, 2111, 2201, 2210e, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2273, 2282, 2021); Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, secs. 201, 202, 206, 211 (42 U.S.C. 5841, 5842, 5846, 5851); National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332); Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, secs. 117(a), 132, 133, 134, 135, 137, 141, 145(g), 148, 218(a) (42 U.S.C. 10137(a), 10152, 10153, 10154, 10155, 10157, 10161, 10165(g), 10168, 10198(a)); 44 U.S.C. 3504 note.

2. In § 72.214, Certificate of Compliance No. 1015 is revised to read as follows:

§ 72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.

* * * * *

Certificate Number: 1015.

Initial Certificate Effective Date: November 20, 2000, superseded by Renewed Initial Certificate on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

Amendment Number 1 Effective Date: February 20, 2001, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 1 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

Amendment Number 2 Effective Date: December 31, 2001, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 2 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

Amendment Number 3 Effective Date: March 31, 2004, superseded by Renewed

Amendment Number 3 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

Amendment Number 4 Effective Date: October 11, 2005, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 4 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

Amendment Number 5 Effective Date: January 12, 2009, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 5 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

Amendment Number 6 Effective Date: January 7, 2019, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 6 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

Amendment Number 7 Effective Date: July 29, 2019, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 7 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

Amendment Number 8 Effective Date: October 19, 2021, as corrected (ADAMS Accession No. ML21312A499); superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 8 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

Amendment Number 9 Effective Date: August 29, 2022, superseded by Renewed Amendment Number 9 on **[INSERT DATE 75 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

SAR Submitted by: NAC International, Inc.

SAR Title: Final Safety Analysis Report for the NAC-UMS Universal Storage System.

Docket Number: 72-1015.

Renewed Certificate Expiration Date: November 20, 2060.

Model Number: NAC-UMS.

* * * * *

Dated: April 9, 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Raymond Furstenau,
Acting Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 2024-08508 Filed: 4/26/2024 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/29/2024]