

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234
Internet:opa@nrc.gov

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NRC AMENDS REGULATIONS TO ADD
HI-STAR FUEL STORAGE CASK DESIGN TO APPROVED LIST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to add an additional fuel storage cask design to those that utilities can use--under a general license and without site-specific approval -- to store spent fuel at their nuclear power plants.

The new design is the Holtec International HI-STAR 100 Cask System (HI-STAR), manufactured by Holtec International Inc., of Marlton, New Jersey. It can contain up to 24 pressurized water reactor fuel assemblies or 68 boiling water reactor fuel assemblies.

Under the terms of an NRC general license, any nuclear power reactor licensee can use a pre-approved cask if the reactor licensee notifies the NRC in advance, meets the conditions of the cask's NRC certificate of compliance, and complies with the NRC's regulations. These regulations include a requirement to ensure that the reactor site characteristics and potential site-boundary radiation doses are within the scope of the cask's safety analysis report and the reactor license.

The HI-STAR certificate contains conditions for use that are similar to those for other NRC-approved casks. However, the certificate for each cask design may differ in some specifics, such as operating limits, monitoring and testing requirements, and spent fuel specifications.

NRC staff is issuing a safety evaluation report which finds that adequate protection of public health and safety will be maintained by the user following the conditions specified in the certificate of compliance.

The certificate would expire in 20 years unless it is renewed.

The HI-STAR 100 Cask System is designed to be used as a dual purpose -- storage and transportation -- cask. Certification for transportation was issued earlier, on March 31.

On August 31, NRC staff approved and forwarded the subject information to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

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