

Regulatory Analysis

This final rule adds exemption (j)(2) of the Privacy Act to the NRC regulations that describe exempt systems of records. This is an administrative regulatory action that would make NRC's regulations consistent with the regulations applicable to the majority of statutorily appointed Inspectors General. The rule also adds the (j)(2) and (k)(5) exemptions to the system of records maintained by OIG and clearly links each NRC system of records to the specific exemption(s) of the Privacy Act under which the system is exempt. The rule does not have an economic impact on any class of licensee or the NRC. By more clearly indicating the exemptions under which a system is exempt and by conforming NRC's regulations to those of the majority of statutorily appointed Inspectors General, the rule may provide some benefit to those who may be required to use these regulations.

The alternative to the rule would be to refrain from adopting the identified exemptions. As discussed in this document, failure to adopt the rule could have detrimental effects on the OIG's investigative program and its ability to obtain and protect information.

This constitutes the regulatory analysis for this final rule.

Regulatory Flexibility Certification

As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), the Commission certifies that this final rule does not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The amendments to 10 CFR part 9 are procedural in nature and will aid an NRC office to perform its criminal law enforcement functions. In addition, the amendments will eliminate any confusion regarding specific exemptions available to each affected Privacy Act system of records notice.

Backfit Analysis

The NRC has determined that the backfit rule 10 CFR 50.109 does not apply to this final rule and, therefore, a backfit analysis is not required because these amendments do not involve any provisions that would impose backfits as defined in 10 CFR 50.109(a)(1).

List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 9

Criminal penalties, Freedom of information, Privacy, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sunshine Act.

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; and 5 U.S.C. 552 and 553, the NRC is adopting the following amendments to 10 CFR part 9.

PART 9—PUBLIC RECORDS

1. The authority citation for part 9 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sec. 161, 68 Stat. 948, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2201); sec. 201, 88 Stat. 1242, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5841).

Subpart A also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552; 31 U.S.C. 9701; Pub. L. 99-570. Subpart B also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552a. Subpart C also issued under 5 U.S.C. 552b.

2. In § 9.52, paragraph (b)(4) is revised to read as follows:

§ 9.52 Types of requests.

* * * * *

(b) *Requests for accounting of disclosures.* * * * (4) Disclosures expressly exempted by NRC regulations from the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(j)(2) and (k).

3. In § 9.61, current paragraph (b) is redesignated as paragraph (c), and a new paragraph (b) is added to read as follows:

§ 9.61 Procedures for processing requests for records exempt in whole or in part.

* * * * *

(b) *General exemptions.* Generally, 5 U.S.C. 552a(j)(2) allows the exemption of any system of records within the NRC from any part of section 552a except subsections (b), (c)(1) and (2), (e)(4)(A) through (F), (e)(6), (7), (9), (10), and (11), and (i) of the act if the system of records is maintained by an NRC component that performs as one of its principal functions any activity pertaining to the enforcement of criminal laws, including police efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crimes, or to apprehend criminals, and consists of—

(1) Information compiled for the purpose of identifying individual criminal offenders and alleged offenders and consisting only of identifying data and notations of arrests, the nature and disposition of criminal charges, sentencing, confinement, release and parole, and probation status;

(2) Information compiled for the purpose of a criminal investigation, including reports of informants and investigators, and associated with an identifiable individual; or

(3) Reports identifiable to an individual compiled at any stage of the process of enforcement of the criminal laws from arrest or indictment through release from supervision.

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4. In § 9.80, paragraphs (a)(6), (10), and (11) are revised and a new paragraph (a)(12) is added to read as follows:

§ 9.80 Disclosure of record to persons other than the individual to whom it pertains.

(a) * * *

(6) To the National Archives and Records Administration as a record that has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the United States Government, or to the Archivist of the United States or designee for evaluation to determine whether the record has such value;

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(10) To the Comptroller General, or any authorized representatives, in the course of the performance of the duties of the General Accounting Office;

(11) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or

(12) To a consumer reporting agency in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3711(f).

5. Section 9.95 is revised to read as follows:

§ 9.95 Specific exemptions.

The following records contained in the designated NRC Systems of Records (NRC-5, NRC-9, NRC-11, NRC-18, NRC-22, NRC-23, NRC-28, NRC-29, NRC-31, NRC-33, NRC-35, NRC-37, and NRC-39) are exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I), and (f) in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(k). In addition, the records contained in NRC-18 are exempt from the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a and the regulations in this part, under 5 U.S.C. 552a(j)(2), except subsections (b), (c)(1) and (2), (e)(4)(A) through (F), (e)(6), (7), (9), (10), and (11), and (i). Each of these systems of records is subject to the provisions of § 9.61:

(a) Contracts Records Files, NRC-5 (Exemptions (k)(1) and (k)(5));

(b) Equal Employment Opportunity Discrimination Complaint Files, NRC-9 (Exemption (k)(5));

(c) General Personnel Records (Official Personnel Folder and Related Records), NRC-11 (Exemptions (k)(5) and (k)(6));

(d) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Investigative Records, NRC-18 (Exemptions (j)(2), (k)(1), (k)(2), (k)(5), and (k)(6));

(e) Personnel Performance Appraisals, NRC-22 (Exemptions (k)(1) and (k)(5));

(f) Office of Investigations Indices, Files, and Associated Records, NRC-23 (Exemptions (k)(1), (k)(2), and (k)(6));

(g) Recruiting, Examining, and Placement Records, NRC-28 (Exemption (k)(5));

(h) Nuclear Documents System (NUDOCS), NRC-29 (Exemption (k)(1));