issuance of the Small Business Administration at 13 CFR part 121.

Backfit Analysis

The NRC has determined that the backfit rule (10 CFR 50.109 or 10 CFR 72.62) does not apply to this direct final rule because this amendment does not involve any provisions that would impose backfits as defined. Therefore, a backfit analysis is not required.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

In accordance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, the NRC has determined that this action is a major rule and has verified this determination with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 72

Administrative practice and procedure, Criminal penalties, Manpower training programs, Nuclear materials, Occupational safety and health, 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; 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 WASTE GREATER THAN CLASS C WASTE

§72.214 List of approved spent fuel storage casks.

* * * * * Certificate Number: 1004.

- Initial Certificate Effective Date: January 23, 1995.
- Amendment Number 1 Effective Date: April 27, 2000.
- Amendment Number 2 Effective Date: September 5, 2000.
- Amendment Number 3 Effective Date: September 12, 2001.
- Amendment Number 4 Effective Date: February 12, 2002.
- Amendment Number 5 Effective Date: [Reserved].
- Amendment Number 6 Effective Date: December 22, 2003.
- Amendment Number 7 Effective Date: March 2, 2004.

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- Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of November, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William F. Kane,
Acting Executive Director for Operations.

[FR Doc. 03–12027 Filed 12–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Parts 4 and 111

[Notice 2003–25]

Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Statement of policy.

SUMMARY: The Commission is adopting an interim policy with respect to placing closed files on the public record in enforcement, administrative fines, and alternative dispute resolution cases. The categories of records that will be included in the public record are described below. This is an interim policy only; the Commission will conduct a rulemaking in this respect, with full opportunity for public comment, in 2004.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The “confidentiality provision” of the Federal Election Campaign Act, 2 U.S.C. 431 et seq., (FECA), provides that: “Any notification or investigation under [Section 437g] shall not be made public by the Commission * * * without the written consent of the person receiving such notification or the person with respect to whom such investigation is made.” 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(12)(A). For approximately the first twenty-five years of its existence, the Commission viewed the confidentiality requirement as ending with the termination of a case. The Commission placed on its public record the documents that had been considered by the Commissioners in their determination of a case, minus those materials exempt from disclosure under the FECA or under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, (FOIA). See 11 CFR 5.4(a)(4). In AFL–CIO v. FEC, 177 F.Supp.2d 48 (D.D.C. 2001), the district court disagreed with the Commission’s interpretation of the confidentiality provision and found that the protection of section 437g(a)(12)(A) does not lapse at the time the Commission terminates an investigation. 177 F.Supp.2d at 56.

Following that district court decision, the Commission placed on the public record only those documents that reflected the agency’s “final determination” with respect to enforcement matters. Such disclosure is required under section 437g(a)(4)(B)(ii) of the FECA and section (a)(2)(A) of the FOIA. In all cases, the final determination is evidenced by a certification of Commission vote. The Commission also continued to disclose documents that explained the basis for the final determination. Depending upon the nature of the case, those documents consisted of General Counsel’s Reports (frequently in redacted form); Probable Cause to Believe Briefs; conciliation agreements;
documents that the Commission intends to disclose either do not implicate the Court’s concerns, e.g., categories 8, 9 and 10, or, because they play a critical role in the resolution of a matter, the balance tilts decidedly in favor of public disclosure, even if the documents reveal some confidential information.

With respect to enforcement matters, the Commission will place the following categories of documents on the public record:

1. Complaint or internal agency referral;
2. Response to complaint;
3. General Counsel’s Reports that recommend dismissal, reason to believe, no reason to believe, no probable cause to believe, no further action, or acceptance of a conciliation agreement;
4. Notification of reason to believe findings (including Factual and Legal Analysis);
5. Respondent’s response to reason to believe findings;
6. Briefs (General Counsel’s Brief and Respondent’s Brief);
7. Statements of Reasons;
8. Conciliation Agreements;
9. Evidence of payment of civil penalty or of disgorgement; and

In addition, the Commission will make certain other documents available which will assist the public in understanding the record without intruding upon the associational interests of the respondents. These are:

1. Designations of counsel;
2. Requests for extensions of time;
3. Responses to requests for extensions of time; and

The Commission is placing the foregoing categories of documents on the public record in all cases that are closed, regardless of the outcome. By doing so, the Commission complies with the requirements of 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(4)(B)(ii) and 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2)(A). Conciliation Agreements are placed on the public record pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(4)(B)(ii).

The Commission will place these documents on the public record as soon as practicable, and will endeavor to do so within thirty days of the date on which notifications are sent to complainant and respondent. See 11 CFR 111.20(a). In the event a Statement of Reasons is required, but has not been issued before the date proposed for the release the remainder of the documents in a matter, those documents will be placed on the public record and the Statement of Reasons will be added to the file when issued.

With respect to administrative fines cases, the Commission will place the entire administrative file on the public record, which includes the following:

1. Reason to Believe recommendation;
2. Respondent’s response;
3. Reviewing Officer’s memoranda to the Commission;
4. Final Determination recommendation;
5. Certifications of Commission votes;
6. Statements of Reasons;
7. Evidence of payment of fine; and
8. Referral to Department of the Treasury.

With respect to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) cases, the Commission will place the following categories of documents on the public record:

1. Complaint or internal agency referral;
2. Response to complaint;
3. ADR Office’s case analysis report to the Commission;
4. Notification to respondent that case has been assigned to ADR;
5. Letter or Commitment Form from respondent participating in the ADR program;
6. ADR Office recommendation as to settlement;
7. Certifications of Commission votes;
8. Negotiated settlement agreement; and
9. Evidence of compliance with terms of settlement.

When disclosing documents in administrative fines and alternative dispute resolution cases, the Commission will release publicly available records that are referenced in,
or attached to, documents specifically subject to release under this interim practice.

With this interim policy, the Commission intends to provide guidance to outside counsel, the news media, and others seeking to understand the Commission's disposition of enforcement, administrative fines, and alternative dispute resolution cases and, thus, to enhance their ability to assess particular matters in light of past decisions. In all matters, the Commission will continue to redact information that is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA and the FECA.

As discussed above, the Commission hereby is announcing an interim policy. A rulemaking, with full opportunity for public comment, will be initiated in 2004.


Ellen L. Weintraub,
Chair, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 03–31241 Filed 12–17–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39


RIN 2120–AA64


AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment supersedes an existing airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Bombardier DHC–8–102, –103, –106, –201, –202, –301, –311, and –315 airplanes that currently requires inspections to detect breakage in the struts of the rear mount strut assemblies on the left and right engine nacelles, and replacement of any broken struts. The existing AD also requires eventual replacement of all currently installed struts with new and/or reworked struts, as terminating action for the inspections. The amendment requires new repetitive inspections of the strut assemblies for cracking of struts replaced per the existing AD, and replacement of any cracked strut with a new, machined strut. The action also proposed to change the applicability of the existing AD by adding certain airplanes and removing certain other airplanes, and proposed to include an optional terminating action for the repetitive inspections.

Comments

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA’s determination of the cost to the public.

Cost Impact

There are approximately 192 airplanes of U.S. registry that will be affected by this AD.

The actions that are currently required by AD 94–04–09 take approximately 16 work hours per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of $65 per work hour. Required parts are provided by the manufacturer at no cost to the operators. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the currently required actions is estimated to be $1,040 per airplane.

The new detailed inspection that is required in this AD action takes approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish, at an average labor rate of $65 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the required inspection on U.S. operators is estimated to be $12,480, or $65 per airplane, per inspection cycle.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

The optional terminating action, if done, will take approximately 16 work hours per strut to accomplish, at an average labor rate of $65 per work hour. Required parts will cost approximately $800 per strut. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the optional terminating action is estimated to be $1,840 per strut, per airplane.

Conclusion

The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

Regulatory Impact

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a “significant regulatory action” under