

Arlington, VA 22230, telephone: (703) 306-1741.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person at the above address.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide a forum for expert advice on directions in the social, behavioral and economic sciences at NSF.

Agenda: Presentations by NSF staff on program status and discussion and recommendations from advisory committee members.

Dated: April 8, 1996.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-9057 Filed 4-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

Notice of Workshop

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will hold a one day workshop April 18, 1996. The workshop will take place at the NSF headquarters, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Sessions will be held from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on April 18th.

The goal of the workshop is to provide a forum for gathering the views and input of leaders in the undergraduate education community on the feasibility and utility of a national "clearinghouse" for undergraduate science education resources.

The workshop will not operate as an advisory committee. It will be open to the public. Participants will include 10-12 leaders in various science, engineering, mathematics, and technology fields with knowledge of and experience with the issues of managing information resources.

For additional information, contact Dr. Herbert H. Richtol, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, (703) 306-1667.

Dated: April 4, 1996.

Robert F. Watson,

Division Director, Division of Undergraduate Education.

[FR Doc. 96-9063 Filed 4-10-96; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-255]

Consumers Power Company; Notice of Denial of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Opportunity For Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has denied a portion of a request by Consumers Power Company (the licensee) for an amendment to Facility

Operating License No. DPR-20 issued to the licensee for operation of the Palisades Plant located in Van Buren County, Michigan. Notice of Consideration of Issuance of this amendment was published in the Federal Register on November 27, 1995 (60 FR 58399).

The purpose of the licensee's amendment request was to revise the Facility Operation License (FOL) to reference 10 CFR Part 40, allow the use of source materials as reactor fuel, delete references to specific amendments and specific revisions in the listed titles of the Physical Security Plan, Suitability Training and Qualification Plan, and the Safeguards Contingency Plan, delete paragraph 2.F on reporting requirements, and make minor editorial changes to the license. The Technical Specifications (TS) would also be revised to: (1) Modify TS 3.1.2 to change the pressurizer cooldown limit from 100°F to 200°F/hour; (2) relocate the shield cooling system requirements to the Final Safety Analysis Report; (3) make minor editorial changes and corrections; and (4) revise several TS bases pages.

The NRC staff has concluded that the licensee's request to delete paragraph 2.F of the FOL cannot be granted. The licensee was notified of the Commission's denial of the proposed change by a letter dated April 5, 1996.

By May 13, 1996, the licensee may demand a hearing with respect to the denial described above. Any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a written petition for leave to intervene.

A request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date.

A copy of any petitions should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Judd L. Bacon, Esquire, Consumers Power Company, 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201, attorney for the licensee.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated October 17, 1995, and (2) the Commission's letter to the licensee dated April 5, 1996.

These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW.,

Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of April 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mark F. Reinhart,

Acting Project Director, Project Directorate III-1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 96-9023 Filed 4-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket No. 70-0925]

Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing; Release of Parts of Cimarron Site for Unrestricted Use; Cimarron Corporation

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering the release for unrestricted use of approximately 695 acres of the 840 acre Cimarron site currently under NRC License SNM-928. There is no history of licensed activities within this 695 acre area. The licensee has performed systematic measurements in the area to confirm that the concentration of licensed material in the soil is below NRC's guidelines for unrestricted use.

Introduction

The Cimarron Corporation, a subsidiary of Kerr-McGee Corporation, operated two plants, near Crescent, Oklahoma, for the manufacture of enriched uranium and mixed oxide reactor fuels. Fuel manufacturing operations ceased in 1975, at which time decommissioning activities were initiated. The ultimate goal of the decommissioning effort is to release the entire 840 acre site for unrestricted use. To facilitate remediating and releasing the site, the licensee has divided the 840 acre Cimarron site into three areas, designated as Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III areas.

After any necessary remediation is complete in each of these three areas, the licensee will perform final status surveys in the area. Assuming that the surveys demonstrate that any residual contamination meets NRC guidelines, the licensee intends to request NRC to release the area for unrestricted use, and remove the area from the license. The release of the 695 acre Phase I area for unrestricted use is the proposed licensing action addressed in this environmental assessment.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the release for unrestricted use, and the removal from

License SNM-928, of approximately 695 acres of land. This area has been designated by the license as the "Phase I" area. The boundaries of the Phase I area are defined in Drawing No. 95MOST-RF3 in the licensee's November 13, 1995, letter to NRC.

The Need for Proposed Action

The licensee seeks to release property that is currently under license for unrestricted use. This action is requested in order to remove the current limitations on the future use of the property.

Alternatives to Proposed Action

The only alternative to the proposed action is to not release the Phase I area for unrestricted use and keep the area under license. Maintaining an NRC license for the Phase I area would provide negligible, if any, environmental benefit, but would significantly reduce options for future use of the property.

Environmental Justice

There are no environmental justice issues associated with this proposed action.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action

Based upon a review of the Cimarron site history, the licensee concluded that the Phase I area was not used for licensed activities. To support the historical site assessment conclusions, the licensee references the results of its 1979 scoping survey of the Cimarron site. This scoping survey included exposure rate measurements systematically made over the site. The exposure rates measured within the Phase I area were within the range of natural background. In addition, in 1990, the licensee conducted a soil sampling program in the areas surrounding the uranium building to further define the extent of contamination on the site. No areas identified as contaminated during the 1990 survey are included in the Phase I area. The results of both the 1979 and 1990 characterization surveys are included in the licensee's "Radiological Characterization Report for Cimarron Corporation's Former Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma," October 1994 (Cimarron Characterization Report).

Based on the historical site assessment and characterization results, the licensee classified the Phase I area as unaffected. An unaffected area, as defined in NUREG/CR-5849, "Manual for Conducting Radiological Surveys in Support of License Termination," is an

area not expected to contain residual radioactivity from licensed operations. The licensee submitted the "Final Survey Plan for Unaffected Areas," in October 1994 (Final Survey Plan). Following the guidance in NUREG/CR-5849, the Final Survey Plan provided the methods to be used to conduct the final survey and provide documentation that the Phase I area meets NRC unrestricted use criteria. After the licensee responded satisfactorily to NRC comments on the Final Survey Plan, the plan was approved on May 1, 1995.

The licensee completed the final survey of the Phase I area, in accordance with the approved plan, and submitted the results to NRC in the "Final Status Survey Report, Phase I Areas at the Cimarron Facility," July 1995 (Final Survey Report). After the licensee acceptably responded to NRC's September 5, 1995, comments, the Final Survey Report was deemed acceptable by NRC to demonstrate that the Phase I areas meet NRC's guidelines for unrestricted use. A confirmatory survey was performed by an NRC contractor, the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), during the period October 17 through 19, 1995. ORISE conducted independent, random, measurements in the Phase I area. The ORISE results were consistent with the licensee's results and support the conclusion that the Phase I area meets NRC guidelines.

The unrestricted use guidelines for enriched uranium and thorium for the Cimarron Phase I area were the Option 1 guidelines in the 1981 Branch Technical Position on "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes From Past Operations" (46 FR 52061) (1981 BTP). The Option 1 guidelines are 30 pCi/g for enriched uranium and 10 pCi/g for thorium. In the April 1992 "SDMP Action Plan" (57 FR 13389), the Commission instructed the staff to use the 1981 BTP guidelines, and ALARA, as the unrestricted release criteria for decommissioning pending the final rule on radiological criteria for decommissioning. Although thorium was never processed at the Cimarron site, thorium concentrations in soil were also evaluated during final survey.

The average enriched uranium activity measured in soil samples collected during the final survey of the Cimarron Phase I area, as reported in the Final Survey Report, was 4.9 pCi/g. After subtracting the Cimarron enriched uranium background value of 4.0 pCi/g, the net average total uranium activity measured was 0.9 pCi/g. Note that the 4.0 pCi/g background value includes a correction factor to estimate total uranium assuming 2.7 percent

enrichment, by weight, of U-235. The licensee uses the corrected background since all of the sample results also contain the correction factor. The licensee estimates that the natural uranium background at the Cimarron site, not including the correction factor, is 1.8 pCi/g. Less than 1.3 percent of the individual sample results were statistically greater than background. The maximum individual net concentration of enriched uranium identified in the final survey samples was 8.4 pCi/g. The area containing this sample was separated from the Phase I area and will be further evaluated during the Phase II final status survey. Although it is unlikely that the 0.9 pCi/g net concentration represents a statistically significant concentration above background, the staff conservatively assumed that the 0.9 pCi/g did represent a concentration above background and estimated the dose to a member of the public from this concentration. Using the RESRAD pathway analysis/dose assessment code, (Manual for Implementing Residual Radioactive Material Guidelines Using RESRAD, Version 5.0, ANL/EAD/LD-2, September 1993), version 5.05, the staff estimated that the dose to a member of the public would be less than 1 mrem. All of the individual thorium soil sample results were within the range of natural background.

Other Agencies or Persons Consulted

No agencies or persons outside of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were consulted during the preparation of this EA.

Conclusions

The NRC finds that because the NRC's unrestricted release criteria have been met, there is no significant impact on the environment, and the property can be released for unrestricted use.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) related to the proposed unrestricted release, and removal from license SNM-928, of 695 acres of property on the Cimarron site in Crescent, Oklahoma. On the basis of the EA, the Commission has concluded that this licensing action would not significantly effect the quality of the human environment and has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

The above documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and copying, at the Commission's Public Document Room

in the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC.

Opportunity for a Hearing

The NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license amendment falling within the scope of Subpart L, Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials Licensing Proceedings, of NRC's rules and practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2. Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(c). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this Federal Register notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

1. By delivery to the Docketing and Service Branch of the Office of the Secretary at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738; or

2. By mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of the NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);

3. The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and

4. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

In accordance with 10 CFR § 2.1205(e), each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, Cimarron Corporation, 123 Robert S. Kerr, MT-2006, Oklahoma City, OK, 73102, Attention: Mr. Jess Larsen, and

2. The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

For further details with respect to this action, the application for amendment

request is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of April, 1996.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Robert A. Nelson,

Acting Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, NMSS.

[FR Doc. 96-9024 Filed 4-10-96; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

[Docket No. MC96-2; Order No. 1107]

Mail Classification Schedule Classification Reform II (Nonprofit Mail); Notice and Order on Filing of Major Revisions to Domestic Mail Classification Schedule Provisions Affecting Preferred Rate (Nonprofit) Mailers (Including Related Postal Rate Changes)

Issued: April 5, 1996.

Notice is hereby given that on April 4, 1996, the United States Postal Service filed a request with the Postal Rate Commission pursuant to section 3623 of the Postal Reorganization Act [39 U.S.C. 3623] for a recommended decision on proposed changes in provisions of the domestic mail classification schedule (DMCS) affecting preferred rate (nonprofit) mailers, with the exception of those mailing at the library rate. The proposed revisions also generally entail changes in the rates that will be paid by affected preferred rate mailers, other than Within-county mailers. See Request of the United States Postal Service for a Recommended Decision on Further Classification Reform of Preferred Rate Standard Mail and Periodicals (April 4, 1996) (referred to herein as "Request").

Contents of the filing. The Service's Request is supported by the testimony of 10 witnesses. It also includes proposed DMCS changes, proposed rate schedule changes, and additional documentation required by the Commission's rules of practice. The latter includes certification of the accuracy of costs and data underlying the request; a copy of audited financial statements (for FY 1995); and a statement regarding compliance with certain information filing requirements. The Request also incorporates a motion seeking expedition (primarily through the settlement process) and waiver of provisions related to the use of financial data more recent than that relied upon

in Docket No. MC95-1. The Request and related documents are on file in the Commission's docket room. Information on reviewing this material, either in person or electronically, appears later in this notice.

Background. The Service identifies this proposal as the second phase of fundamental reform of the nation's longstanding approach to mail classification. It addresses the preferred (nonprofit) rate counterparts of the regular (or commercial) rate segments of Periodicals and Standard Mail (formerly known as second- and third-class mail). Proposals for restructuring the referenced regular rate segments were considered, along with proposed revisions to First-Class Mail, in Docket No. MC95-1. The Service notes that MC95-1, which constituted the initial phase of its reclassification effort, culminated in the Governors' recent approval of all but two of the Commission's recommendations. (The exceptions are not material to the instant request.) Changes related to the first phase of classification reform are scheduled to take effect July 1, 1996.

Nature and extent of proposed changes. The Service states that this phase of reform seeks the Commission's recommendation of classification and rate treatment for preferred rate mail within former second- and third-class mail "comparable to the treatment recommended [by the Commission] for regular rate mail in Docket No. MC95-1." Request at 2. The Service indicates that this requires the establishment of subclasses and rate categories for preferred mail parallel to those which will soon take effect for the regular rate components of Periodicals and Standard Mail. In addition, the Service contends that comparability also suggests that rates and discounts for the new categories generally should be based on the same principles and methodologies the Commission applied in Docket No. MC95-1. Id. at 2-3 (footnote omitted). This contention underlies, in part, the Service's motion for waiver of rule 54(f) (discussed in more detail below).

Specific changes. The specific structural changes the Service seeks are (1) the establishment of a Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route Subclass within Standard Mail; (2) the establishment of rate categories in the Nonprofit subclass within Standard Mail parallel to those in the Regular subclass; and (3) the establishment of rate categories and rate discounts for Preferred Rate Periodicals parallel to those for Regular Periodicals. Id. at 1. Suggested rate changes related to the proposed changes in the DMCS are included in an attachment to this notice. Interested parties are encouraged