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Although a time limit is given for comments on this draft, comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time.

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(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of December 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
 Sher Bahadur,

Acting Director, Division of Regulatory Applications, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 96-679 Filed 1-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine; Receipt of Report on NRC's Medical Use Program

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Report on NRC's medical use program: Notice of receipt.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is publishing for public comment a notice of receipt of a

prepublication copy of a report from the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine (IOM), entitled "Radiation in Medicine: A Need for Regulatory Reform," prepared as part of an external review of the NRC's medical use regulatory program. The goal of the external review was to develop an assessment of the adequacy and appropriateness of the current regulatory framework for medical use of byproduct material. NRC is currently reviewing and analyzing the report. As part of the initial review, NRC is soliciting comments on the possible impact of the report, to include any views on policy, legislative, rulemaking, and guidance issues. There will be additional opportunity for discussion during the ongoing analysis of the report.

DATES: Submit comments by April 22, 1996. Comments received after this date will be considered, if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

For a copy of the prepublication report, "Radiation in Medicine: A Need for Regulatory Reform," contact: National Academy Press, Office of News and Public Information, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418, or telephone (202) 334-3313 or (Toll-Free) (800) 624-6242.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia K. Holahan, Ph.D., U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, MS T8F5, Washington, DC 20555, Telephone (301) 415-7270.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In January 1994, the NRC contracted with the National Academy of Sciences, IOM, to conduct an external review of the NRC's medical regulatory program. It included a review of the basic regulatory rules, policies, practices, and procedures. There were three major goals of the study: (1) Examination of the overall risk associated with the use of ionizing radiation in medicine; (2) examination of the broad policy issues that underlie the regulation of the medical uses of radioisotopes; and (3) a critical assessment of the current framework for the regulation of the medical uses of byproduct material. The NRC was seeking specific recommendations on two major issues: (1) A uniform national approach to the regulation of ionizing radiation in all medical applications, including consideration of how the

regulatory authority and responsibility for medical devices sold in interstate commerce for application of radiation to human beings should be allocated among Federal Government agencies and between the Federal and State Governments; and (2) appropriate criteria to measure the effectiveness of regulatory program(s) needed to protect public health and safety.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of January, 1996.

Carl J. Paperiello,

Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 96-697 Filed 1-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. 50-237, 50-249]

Commonwealth Edison Company (Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3); Exemption

I

The Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-19 and DPR-25, which authorize operation of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (the facilities). The licenses provide, among other things, that the facilities are subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facilities are boiling water reactors located at the licensee's site in Grundy County, Illinois.

II

In 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for Physical Protection of Licensed Activities in Nuclear Power Reactors Against Radiological Sabotage," paragraph (a), in part, states that "the licensee shall establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will have as its objective to provide high assurance that activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety."

In 10 CFR 73.55(d), "Access Requirements," paragraph (1), it specifies that "the licensee shall control all points of personnel and vehicle access into a protected area." Also, 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) requires that "A numbered picture badge identification system shall be used for all individuals who are authorized access to protected areas without escort." It further states that individuals not employed by the licensee (e.g., contractors) may be authorized access to protected areas

without escort provided that the individual, "receives a picture badge upon entrance into a protected area which must be returned upon exit from the protected area * * *."

By letter dated November 20, 1995, the licensee requested an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55. The licensee proposes to implement an alternative unescorted access system which would eliminate the need to issue and retrieve picture badges at the entrance/exit location to the protected area and would allow all individuals, including contractors, to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing Dresden Station.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest. According to 10 CFR 73.55, the Commission may authorize a licensee to provide alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage provided the licensee demonstrates that the alternative measures have the same "high assurance" objective, that the proposed measures meet the general performance requirements of the regulation, and that the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent to that which would be provided by the regulation.

Currently, unescorted access into the protected area for both employee and contractor personnel into Dresden Station, Units 2 and 3, is controlled through the use of picture badges. Positive identification of personnel who are authorized and request access into the protected area is established by security personnel making a visual comparison of the individual requesting access and that individual's picture badge. In accordance with 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), contractor personnel are not allowed to take their picture badges off site. In addition, in accordance with the plant's physical security plan, the licensee's employees are also not allowed to take their picture badges off site.

The proposed system will require that all individuals with authorized unescorted access have the physical characteristics of their hand (hand geometry) registered with their picture badge number in a computerized access

control system. Therefore, all authorized individuals must not only have their picture badge to gain access to the protected area, but must also have their hand geometry confirmed. All individuals, including contractors, who have authorized unescorted access into the protected area will be allowed to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the Dresden Station.

All other access processes, including search function capability and access revocation, will remain the same. A security officer responsible for access control will continue to be positioned within a bullet-resistant structure. It should also be noted that the proposed system is only for individuals with authorized unescorted access and will not be used for those individuals requiring escorts.

Sandia National Laboratories conducted testing which demonstrated that the hand geometry equipment possesses strong performance characteristics. Details of the testing performed are in the Sandia report, "A Performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices," SAND91-0276 UC-906 Unlimited Release, June 1991. Based on the Sandia report and the licensee's experience using the current photo picture identification system, the false acceptance rate for the proposed hand geometry system would be at least equivalent to that of the current system. To assure that the proposed system will continue to meet the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), the licensee will implement a process for testing the system. The site security plans will also be revised to allow implementation of the hand geometry system and to allow employees and contractors with unescorted access to keep their picture badges in their possession when leaving Dresden Station.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage meet the same high assurance objective and the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55. In addition, the staff has determined that the overall level of the proposed system's performance will provide protection against radiological sabotage equivalent to that which is provided by the current system in accordance with 10 CFR 73.55.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, this exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is

otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the following exemption:

The requirement of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) that individuals who have been granted unescorted access and are not employed by the licensee are to return their picture badges upon exit from the protected area is no longer necessary. Thus, these individuals may keep their picture badges in their possession upon leaving Dresden Nuclear Power Station.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact (61 FR 669).

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Elinor G. Adensam,
*Deputy Director, Division of Reactor
Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96-701 Filed 1-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. STN 50-454 and STN 50-455]

Commonwealth Edison Company (Byron Station, Units 1 and 2); Exemption

I

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-37 and NPF-66, which authorize operation of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2 (the facilities). The licenses provide, among other things, that the facilities are subject to all the rules, regulations, and Orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facilities are pressurized water reactors located at the licensee's site in Ogle County, Illinois.

II

In 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for Physical Protection of Licensed Activities in Nuclear Power Reactors Against Radiological Sabotage," paragraph (a), in part, states that "the licensee shall establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will have as its objective to provide high assurance that activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety."

In 10 CFR 73.55(d), "Access Requirements," paragraph (1), it specifies that "the licensee shall control all points of personnel and vehicle access into a protected area." Also, 10