

petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, 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. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to Herbert N. Berkow: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to M. Stanford Blanton, Esq., Balch and Bingham, Post Office Box 306, 1710 Sixth Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35201, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 23, 1997, which is 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 Houston-Love Memorial Library, 212 W. Burdeshaw Street, Post Office Box 1369, Dothan, Alabama.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jacob I. Zimmerman,

Project Manager, Project Directorate II-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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[Docket No. 72-16 (50-338, -339)]

Virginia Electric and Power Company, Notice of Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at the North Anna Nuclear Power Station

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a materials license under the requirements of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 72 (10 CFR Part 72), to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the applicant), authorizing the construction and operation of an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) located at its North Anna Nuclear Power Station in Louisa County, Virginia. The Commission's Spent Fuel Project Office in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards has completed its environmental review in support of the issuance of a materials license. The "Environmental Assessment (EA) Related to Construction and Operation of the North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation" has been issued in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51.

Summary of Environmental Assessment

Description of the Proposed

Action: The proposed licensing action would authorize the applicant to construct and operate a dry storage ISFSI. The ISFSI is to provide additional interim storage of spent nuclear fuel generated from the continued operation of the North Anna Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2. The proposed ISFSI spent fuel cask is designed by Transnuclear, Inc. The spent fuel cask, referred to as TN-32, is a smooth right-circular cylinder of multi-wall construction that holds a fuel basket designed to accommodate 32 pressurized water reactor (PWR) fuel assemblies. The license for an ISFSI under 10 CFR Part 72 is issued for 20 years, but the applicant may apply to the Commission to renew the license, if necessary, prior to its expiration.

Need for the Proposed Action

The spent fuel assemblies generated from the operation of the North Anna Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2 are currently stored onsite in a spent fuel pool. Under the current refueling schedule for the North Anna Units 1 and 2, the capability to discharge an entire core (157 assemblies) will be lost in early 1999, and the spent fuel pool will be at its capacity by late 2000. Therefore, additional spent fuel storage capacity is needed in 1998. Delay in the

availability of this additional storage capacity may cause a reduction in the power operation or temporary shutdown of Units 1 and 2. The applicant's proposed action would provide the additional capacity required to store spent fuel that is expected to be generated at the North Anna Nuclear Power Station through the end of its currently licensed operating life.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Construction of the proposed ISFSI will affect approximately 4.4 ha (11 acres) of the 422 ha (1,043 acres) site area which is committed to nuclear power plant development. With good construction practices, the potential for fugitive dust, erosion, and noise impacts typical of the planned construction activities can be controlled to insignificant levels. The only resources committed irretrievably are the steel, concrete, and other construction materials in the ISFSI slab and storage cask. Therefore, no significant construction impacts are anticipated.

The routine operation of the proposed ISFSI involves only dry storage of spent nuclear fuel that is sealed in containers (TN-32 casks); there will be no gaseous or liquid effluents released to the environment. External exposure to direct and scattered radiation is the primary pathway of radiation exposure to workers and the general public. The dose to the nearest resident from routine ISFSI operation is estimated to be about 10 $\mu\text{Sv/yr}$ (1.0 mrem/yr). The combined dose to the nearest resident from the ISFSI and the nuclear power plant operation is about 58 $\mu\text{Sv/yr}$ (5.8 mrem/yr). These doses are well below the 250 $\mu\text{Sv/yr}$ (25 mrem/yr) limit specified in 10 CFR 72.104. These doses are a small fraction of the natural background from terrestrial and cosmic radiation of about 1,100 $\mu\text{Sv/yr}$ (110 mrem/yr) in the State of Virginia.

The dose to an individual at the nearest site boundary from a hypothetical accident has been calculated to be 0.49 mSv (0.049 rem) (whole-body) which is well below the 50 mSv (5 rem) criteria set forth in 10 CFR 72.106(b) and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's protective action guidelines.

There are no nonradiological impacts resulting from the routine ISFSI operation. The operational noise associated with the proposed action will result from the transfer of casks from the North Anna Nuclear Power Station protected area to the ISFSI. Noise associated with this operation is onsite and is expected to be minimal; no

adverse impacts to the general public are anticipated.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

If a permanent Federal repository were available, the preferred alternative would be to ship spent fuel to the repository for disposal. The Department of Energy is currently working to develop a repository, as required under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, but is not likely to have a licensed repository ready to receive spent fuel before 2010. Although DOE recommended that a Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) facility be constructed and operated for interim storage, this proposed action has not taken place so far. Given the uncertainties of schedules for a repository and MRS, these alternatives, therefore, do not meet the near-term interim storage needs of the applicant. Given these conditions, a number of alternatives for the storage of spent fuel prior to the selection of the dry storage ISFSI are discussed in the EA. These alternatives included: (a) expansion of the existing pool, (b) construction of a new storage pool, (c) increasing capacity of the existing pool, (d) spent fuel rod consolidation, (e) transshipment to Surry Nuclear Power Station ISFSI, (f) reduction in rate of spent fuel generation by using high burnup fuel or by reduction in operation, and (g) no action alternative. As discussed in the EA, the Commission has concluded there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed dry storage ISFSI, and other alternatives were not chosen because of the time required for the design and licensing, its high cost, or the storage limitation for expanding existing pool storage at the North Anna Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

Officials from the State of Virginia Bureau of Radiological Health, as well as the Department of Environmental Quality, were contacted in preparing this assessment.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The staff has reviewed the environmental impacts of the proposed ISFSI relative to the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51 and prepared an EA. Based on the EA, the staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that issuance of a license will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31 and 51.32, a finding of no significant impact is appropriate and an environmental impact statement need not be prepared

for the issuance of a materials license for the North Anna ISFSI.

For further details related to this proposed action, the EA and the application, dated May 9, 1995, as supplemented, are available for public inspection, and for copying for a fee, at the NRC Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room for North Anna located at the University of Virginia, Alderman Library, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of March 1997.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Charles J. Haughney,

Deputy Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy will hold a meeting on April 15-16, 1997, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Tuesday April 15, 1997—1:00 p.m. until the conclusion of business

Wednesday April 16, 1997—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will discuss generic letters regarding steam generator tube inspection techniques, effective use of ultrasonic testing techniques in inservice inspection programs, degradation of steam generator internals, and degradation of reactor vessel head penetrations. The Subcommittee will also discuss the status of issues related to reactor pressure vessel integrity. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Subcommittee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked