

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Licenses 37-0826-1 and 37-0826-2—  
Dockets 30-21230 and 30-30666]

**ALARON Corp. Northeast Regional Service Facility—Wampum, Pennsylvania: Renewal of Material Licenses; Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing (NUREG/CR-5549)**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering the renewal of Material Licenses 37-20826-01 and 37-20826-02 for the continued operation of ALARON Corporation, Northeast Regional Service Facility (NRSF), located in Wampum, Pennsylvania.

**Summary of the Environmental Assessment***Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action is the renewal of ALARON's Material Licenses 37-20826-01 and 37-20826-02 for at least 10 years. With these renewals, the ALARON facility will continue to conduct ongoing operations involving treatment, decontamination, compaction and repackaging services for generators of radioactively contaminated materials. The proposed action would permit ALARON to possess, manage, and treat, under two NRC Material Licenses, 37-20826-01 and 37-20826-02, limited quantities of byproduct or source materials and sealed sources with atomic numbers less than 97, special nuclear materials in the form of fixed or removable contamination, and depleted uranium.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

The action is to determine if the licenses should be renewed or denied. ALARON provides treatment, decontamination, compaction and repackaging services for generators of radioactively contaminated materials. Because these services reduce the quantities or volumes of materials that require disposal as waste, generators choose to have their radioactive waste materials treated at the NRSF to reduce the costs of disposal. Denial of the license renewals for ALARON is an alternative available to NRC, but without the services provided by ALARON, contaminated materials would have to be processed at other facilities providing these services or the amount of low level waste (LLW) disposed of at commercial burial sites would have to increase. While terminating the licenses would eliminate the small impacts of facility

operation, eliminating or replacing facility capabilities could lead to environmental impacts elsewhere.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

Because of the limited scope of activities at the NRSF, this environmental assessment (EA) focuses on impacts to air quality, ecological resources, and human health resulting from normal operations and potential accidents. The proposed action would not (1) cause appreciable changes in employment at the site, (2) affect previously undisturbed areas, (3) generate liquid discharges (except storm water runoff) from the facility, (4) expand the developed area of the site, or (5) require major operations outside existing buildings or the surrounding industrial area. For these reasons, no significant impacts on socioeconomic, historic or archaeological resources, water quality, terrestrial ecology, or noise levels would result from the proposed action.

*Air Quality Impacts*

The NRSF is located in Lawrence County, which is in attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for all pollutants except ozone. NAAQS exist for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), lead, and two sizes of respirable particulate matter: particles less than 10 µm in diameter (designated PM-10) and particles less than 2.5 µm in diameter (designated PM-2.5). The NAAQS are expressed as pollutant concentrations that are not to be exceeded in the ambient air—that is, in the outdoor air to which the general public has access. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established emissions levels for conformity analysis below which contributions to air pollution are not considered significant, and for which no further regulatory analysis is required. The proposed action would not be expected to increase emissions to the ambient air from process facilities. Air emitted from process facilities is filtered and recycled through the buildings. The licensee anticipates no changes in operations that would affect air-pollutant emissions.

Ozone is formed from complex chemical reactions involving oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. Ozone pollution is a cumulative impact of many emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and hydrocarbons and all internal combustion engines emit NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs. Because vehicle movements associated with facility operations emit

these pollutants, facility operations contribute to the regional ozone problem. Analysis shows that even under very conservative assumptions, NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs emissions associated with NRSF operations are only a small fraction of the limits below which contributions to air pollution are not considered significant. Because vehicle movements associated with operations contribute much less than the quantities EPA considers worthy of analysis for conformity with air quality plans, the facility makes no significant contribution to the region's ozone pollution problem.

*Radioactive Emissions*

NRSF does not have liquid discharge paths where licensed (radioactive) material may be released to the environment. There are no floor drains in areas where radioactive material containers are opened. Operations involving radioactive liquids are conducted in areas with spill curbs capable of containing the liquid volume of the largest container holding liquids in the area. Because all areas that might have decontamination chemicals are co-located with radioactive materials, there are no liquid sources for impacts to humans from either hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials.

Airborne contaminants are drawn through HEPA filters, and filtered air is discharged back into the buildings. The exhaust of all HEPA filters is monitored continuously. No atmospheric emissions containing radioactive contaminants are expected to be released.

*Accident Evaluation*

The EA evaluated one accident as the bounding accident: the potential quantities of licensed and nonradiological materials that might be released to the atmosphere in the unlikely event of a major fire at the NRSF facility. The regulatory analysis documented in NUREG-1140 (McGuire 1988), which assessed the accident potential for doses exceeding EPA protective action guides, was used to evaluate potential impacts. The limiting possession quantities of radionuclides specified in 10 CFR 30.72, are derived from the analyses and conclusions in NUREG-1140. Because they are derived from the analyses in NUREG-1140, these possession limits ensure that accidental releases will not exceed the EPA protective action guide 1-rem exposure to downwind individuals. The quantities of radiological materials ALARON is allowed to possess are limited by license conditions that reference Schedule C in 10 CFR 30.72.

The historical quantities of radionuclides at the NRSF have been far below the limiting quantities.

ALARON's operations with licensed material involve use of fluoroboric acid (HBF<sub>4</sub>). In the event of an accident, the primary off-site chemical hazard would be from the gaseous boron trifluoride (BF<sub>3</sub>) and hydrogen fluoride (HF) that could result from decomposition of the HBF<sub>4</sub>. The evaluation of the potential impacts of this nonradiological material was based on a release to the atmosphere using the same accidental fire scenario as for the radiological materials. The results were compared to the EPA's guidance for chemical hazards under its "Risk Management Plan Rule." Because the total inventory of fluoroboric acid at NRSF is less than EPA's recommended threshold amounts, there is no potential for adverse off-site human health impacts in the event of accidents involving this acid at NRSF.

#### Conclusion

The NRC staff concludes that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed license renewal for continued operation of ALARON Corporation's Wampum, Pennsylvania, Northeast Regional Service Facility are expected to be insignificant.

#### Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has prepared an EA related to the renewal of Material Licenses 37-20826-01 and 37-20826-02. On the basis of the assessment, the Commission has concluded that environmental impacts that would be created by the proposed action would not be significant and do not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

The EA is being made available as NUREG/CR-5549. Copies of NUREG/CR-5549 may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, PO Box 37082, Washington, DC 20402-9328. Copies are also available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. A copy is also available for inspection and copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555-0001.

#### Opportunity for a Hearing

Any person whose interest may be affected by the issuance of this renewal may file a request for a hearing. Any request for hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**; be served on the NRC staff (Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852), and on the licensee (ALARON Corporation, RD#2, Box 2140A, Wampum, PA 16157); and must comply with the requirements for requesting a hearing set forth in the Commission's regulations, 10 CFR part 2, subpart L, "Information Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials Licensing Proceedings."

These requirements, which the request must address in detail, are:

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);
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 hearing is timely—that is, filed within 30 days of the date of this notice.

In addressing how the requestor's interest may be affected by the proceeding, the request should describe the nature of the requestor's right under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to be made a party to the proceeding; the nature and extent of the requestor's property, financial, or other (i.e., health, safety) interest in the proceeding; and the possible effect of any order that may be entered in the proceeding upon the requestor's interest.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of November, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Larry W. Camper,**

*Chief, Material Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

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#### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-305]

**Wisconsin Public Service Corp., Wisconsin Power and Light Co., Madison Gas and Electric Co., Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is

considering issuance of an amendment to Operating License DPR-43, issued to Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Wisconsin Power and Light Company, and Madison Gas and Electric Company (the licensee), for the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant located in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise the reactor core power distribution peaking factor limits and reactor coolant system operating parameters related to the minimum departure from nucleate boiling ratio safety limit. These proposed changes are the result of analyses performed in support of use of new type fuel assemblies. The new fuel assemblies would be operated within these new thermal-hydraulic and power distribution limits with potential fuel assembly burnups to 59 GWD/MTU and maximum rod average burnup limited to 60 GWD/MTU. Another change included in the proposed amendment is the removal, from the current licensing basis, of the fuel pool turbine missile hazards analysis.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated April 15, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated July 27 and August 13, 1998, by two different letters dated September 28, 1998, and by a letter dated November 24, 1998.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed in order for the licensee to have the flexibility to use fuel with increased burnup and to revise the plant safety analyses. The changes in operating parameters and limits will allow longer operating cycles and result in fewer fuel assemblies being needed.

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The staff has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and made the following findings: (1) The mechanical design of the fuel has been evaluated and found acceptable for use within the analyzed limits, (2) although the extended burnup to 60 GWD/MTU may slightly change the mix of radionuclides that might be released in the event of an accident, analyses of radiological consequences of accidents confirm that there is no significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents, (3) no significant changes would be made in the amounts or types of any radiological effluents that may be released offsite, (4) there is no significant increase in the allowable