

the results of an analysis showing that as of June 30, 1999, decay heat could not heat the spent fuel cladding above 482 °C in the event all water was drained from the SFP. The staff reviewed the licensee's analysis and found the licensee's value for peak fuel cladding temperature acceptable. On the basis of a staff determination that fuel cladding will remain intact at this temperature, the staff concluded that a complete loss of water from the ZNPS SFP would not result in a release off site that exceeds the early-phase EPA PAGs.

Although a significant release of radioactive material from the spent fuel is no longer possible in the absence of water cooling, a potential exists for radiation exposure to an offsite individual in the event that shielding of the fuel is lost (a beyond-design-basis event). Water and the concrete pool structure serve as radiation shielding on the sides of the pool. However, water alone provides most of the shielding above the spent fuel. A loss of shielding above the fuel could increase the radiation levels off site because of the gamma rays streaming up out of the pool being scattered back to a receptor at the site boundary. The licensee calculated the offsite radiological impact of a postulated complete loss of SFP water and determined that the gamma radiation dose rate at the exclusion area boundary would be 0.00294 rad per hour at an outside air temperature of 21 °C. At this rate, it would take 14 days for the event to exceed the EPA early-phase PAG of 1 rem. The EPA early-phase PAG is defined as the period beginning at the projected or actual initiation of a release and extending a few days later. The PAGs were developed to respond to a mobile airborne plume that could transport and deposit radioactive material over a large area. In contrast, the radiation field formed by scatter from a drained SFP would be stationary rather than moving and would not cause transport or deposition of radioactive materials. The 14 days available for action allow sufficient time to develop and implement mitigative actions and provide confidence that additional offsite measures could be taken without planning if efforts to reestablish shielding over the fuel are delayed.

The standards and requirements that remain in effect are listed in Attachment 1 to the licensee's letter of April 13, 1999, and Attachment 2 to the licensee's letter of July 8, 1999. On the basis of this review, the staff finds that the radiological consequences of accidents possible at ZNPS are substantially lower than those at an operating plant. The upper bound of offsite dose

consequences limits the highest attainable emergency class to the alert level. In addition, because of the reduced consequences of radiological events still possible at the site, the scope of the onsite emergency preparedness organization may be reduced. Thus, the underlying purpose of the regulations will not be adversely affected by eliminating offsite emergency planning activities or reducing the scope of onsite emergency planning. Accordingly, the Commission has determined that special circumstances as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) exist.

IV.

The Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety and is consistent with the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Commonwealth Edison Company an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and 10 CFR 50.47(c)(2).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (64 FR 45981).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of August 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-23297 Filed 9-7-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Tennessee Valley Authority

[Docket No. 50-390]

Notice of Partial Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted a request by the Tennessee Valley Authority (the Licensee) to withdraw the remainder of its October 23, 1996, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-90 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, located in Rhea County, Tennessee.

The remaining portion of the application that was not approved by license amendment number 6, issued on

July 28, 1997, proposed the installation of spent fuel racks in the cask pit area of the spent fuel pool for an additional 225 storage spaces and the use of an impact shield over the fuel in the cask pit when heavy loads are moved near or across the cask pit area.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on April 2, 1997 (62 FR 15733). However, by letter dated July 22, 1999, the licensee withdrew that portion of the proposed amendment related to storage in the cask pit.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 23, 1996, Amendment to Facility Operating License Number 6 issued on July 28, 1997, and the licensee's letter dated July 22, 1999. The above 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 Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Robert E. Martin,

Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-23299 Filed 9-7-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Postponement of Public Workshop To Develop a Standard Review Plan for Decommissioning

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Postponement of public workshop.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the postponement of one of the public workshops the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is sponsoring to solicit input from stakeholders during the development of a Standard Review Plan (SRP) and other guidance for decommissioning nuclear facilities.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 21, 1998, NRC announced that it was sponsoring a series of public workshops to support the staff's development of an SRP and other guidance for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. On November 18,

1998, NRC published the schedule for these workshops and indicated that a workshop would be held on October 20–21, 1999, at NRC Headquarters at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. At the conclusion of the August workshop, the participants agreed to postpone the October workshop until February 2000. The rescheduling will allow more time for public review of the SRP prior to the final workshop. The workshop will be held at NRC Headquarters at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. NRC staff will announce the date for this workshop in a future **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dominick A. Orlando, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415–6749.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of August 1999.

For the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

Chief, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 99–23298 Filed 9–7–99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of September 6, 13, 20, 27 and October 18, 1999.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of September 6

Tuesday, September 7

9:15 a.m.—Briefing on PRA Implementation Plan (Public Meeting) (Contact: Tom King, 301–415–5790).

Friday, September 10

11:30 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)

a. Final Rule: "Respiratory Protection and Controls to Restrict Internal Exposures, 10 CFR Part 20"

b. Yankee Atomic Electric Company (Yankee Nuclear Power Station), Docket No. 50–029–LA, Yankee Atomic's Motion for Leave to Withdraw Appeal of LBP–99–14

Week of September

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of September 13.

Week of September 20—Tentative

Tuesday, September 21

9:25 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting), (if needed).

9:30 a.m.—Briefing by DOE on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Proposed HLW Geologic Repository (Public Meeting).

Wednesday, September 22

9:00 a.m.—Meeting on Center for Strategic and International Studies Report, "The Regulatory Process for Nuclear Power Reactors—a Review" (Public Meeting).

Week of September 27—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of September 27.

And

Week of October 18—Tentative

Thursday, October 21

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Part 35—Rule on Medical Use of Byproduct Material (Contact: Cathy Haney, 301–415–6825) (SECY–99–201, *Draft Final Rule—10 CFR Part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material*, is available in the NRC Public Document Room or on NRC web site at "www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html". Download the *zipped version* to obtain all attachments.)

*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415–1292. Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415–1661.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>.

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301–415–1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: September 3, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

Secy, Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–23425 Filed 9–3–99; 2:36 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

I. Background

Pursuant to Public Law 97–415, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. Public Law 97–415 revised section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to require the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, under a new provision of section 189 of the Act. This provision grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued from August 14, 1999, through August 27, 1999. The last biweekly notice was published on August 25, 1999 (64 FR 46424).

Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the following amendment requests involve no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The basis for this proposed determination for each amendment request is shown below.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period.