

following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (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 fifteen (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 and the 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.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC within the time prescribed above. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (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) 325-6000 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to Ledyard B. Marsh: petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; General Electric Company Nuclear Test Reactor; 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, and to Mr. Benton M. Murray, V18, General Electric Company, Vallecitos Nuclear Center, 6705 Vallecitos Road, Sunol, CA 94586.

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 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 renewal dated September 30, 1997, as supplemented on November 20, 1997, and June 18, and August 23, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas Koshy,

Acting Chief, Events Assessment, Generic Communications and Non-Power Reactors Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-24669 Filed 9-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-151]

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Advanced TRIGA Research Reactor Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a license amendment to Facility License No. R-115, issued to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC or the licensee), for decommissioning of the UIUC Advanced TRIGA Research Reactor, located on the UIUC campus in Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action is approval of the licensee's SAFSTOR decommissioning plan. UIUC submitted their decommissioning plan in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(b) for the UIUC Advanced TRIGA Research Reactor located in the Nuclear Reactor Laboratory (NRL). The reactor (1.5 MW thermal power) was permanently shut down on August 9, 1998. The licensee applied for a possession-only license amendment on October 5, 1998. By License Amendment No. 10 issued on April 12, 1999, the NRC removed the authority to operate the reactor and authorized possession of the residual radioactive materials.

The proposed decommissioning plan would place the NRL and reactor into safe storage until at least 2009 because this date is the soonest the Department of Energy can accept fuel from the UIUC. Domestic spent nuclear fuel receipts at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory have been severely constrained because of a settlement agreement of a lawsuit concerning spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. The only fuel storage option the licensee has is to maintain fuel in storage at the NRL. Decontamination and dismantlement activities cannot begin until fuel is removed from the NRL. The licensee has chosen the SAFSTOR option of decommissioning. SAFSTOR is the alternative in which the facility is placed and maintained in a condition that allows the facility to be safely stored and subsequently decontaminated to levels that permit release for unrestricted use. SAFSTOR consists of a short period of preparation for safe storage, a variable safe storage

period of continuing care consisting of security, surveillance, and maintenance, and ends with a period of deferred decontamination. The regulations in 10 CFR 50.82(b)(4)(i) allow the NRC staff to give consideration to an alternative which provides for delayed completion of decommissioning only when necessary to protect the public health and safety. The regulations give factors to be considered in evaluating an alternative which provides for delayed completion of decommissioning. One of these factors is the unavailability of waste disposal capacity. The inability of the licensee to dispose of the spent reactor fuel falls under this factor. The licensee will submit an updated decommissioning plan for NRC review and approval after fuel has been removed from the NRL.

The decommissioning plan describes maintaining the facility in a safe storage condition. Fuel will be stored in approved storage racks in the Bulk Shielding Facility, which is a tank of water that is part of the reactor biological shield but is separate from the reactor tank. The licensee plans to maintain a regular surveillance schedule at the facility during the SAFSTOR period. The licensee will continue with their current health physics program and the approved emergency plan, security plan and operator requalification plan during the SAFSTOR period.

A "Notice and Solicitation of Comments Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1405 and 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5) Concerning Proposed Action to Decommission University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University of Illinois Advanced TRIGA Research Reactor" was published in the **Federal Register** on June 14, 1999 (64 FR 31882), and in the Champaign News-Gazette on June 13, 1999. There were no comments received on the proposed action.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 13, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated May 11 and August 3, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is necessary because of the UIUC's decision to cease operations permanently. As specified in 10 CFR 50.82, any licensee may apply to the NRC for authority to surrender a license voluntarily and to decommission the affected facility. Once the licensee permanently ceases operation, 10 CFR 50.82(b)(1) requires the licensee to make application for license termination within two years following permanent cessation of operations, and in no case later than one

year prior to expiration of the operating license. UIUC is planning to place the facility into safe storage until such time that the Department of Energy can accept the fuel from the facility. After the fuel is removed, the licensee will continue with decommissioning activities. UCIC is planning to use the area that would be released for unrestricted use for other academic purposes.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the radiological effects of maintaining the facility in a condition of safe storage will be minimal because fuel will be stored in approved storage locations under the restrictions of the facility license. In accordance with the conditions of the technical specifications, the licensee will conduct weekly physical surveillance of the facility to confirm that the fuel and facility are in a condition of safe storage and to ensure proper system performance. The licensee will continue surveillance of primary water quality, radiation monitoring systems, the ventilation system and fuel inspection. Likewise, the licensee will continue with their current health physics program, approved emergency plan, security plan and operator requalification plan. Any solid or liquid wastes generated during the storage period will be disposed of in accordance with the regulations. With the termination of reactor operations, effluents released from the site will probably decrease. No new postulated accidents have been identified during the safe storage period that would have greater radiological impact than previously evaluated accidents. The UIUC estimates that the typical dose commitment to a member of the public at the site boundary will continue to be less than 2 mrem per year as has been reported in annual reports from the licensee. The UIUC estimates that the typical occupational dose commitment to members of the staff will continue to be less than 50 mrem per year per person during the SAFSTOR period.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed

action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The only two alternatives to the proposed action for the UCIC Advanced TRIGA reactor are ENTOMB and no action. ENTOMB is the alternative in which radioactive contaminants are encased in a structurally long-lived material, such as concrete, the entombed structure is appropriately maintained and continued surveillance is carried out until the radioactivity decays to a level permitting release of the property for unrestricted use.

The ENTOMB alternative could not be put into place until the fuel has been removed from the facility. However, the UIUC wants to use the space that will become available for other academic purposes and would enter into the decommissioning activities soon after fuel is removed from the facility. The alternative of not decommissioning reactors was rejected in the "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities," NUREG-0586. The no action alternative would leave the facility in its present configuration. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts.

The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative actions are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

The action does not involve the use of resources different from those previously committed for construction and operation of the UIUC Advanced TRIGA reactor.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 20, 1999, the staff consulted with the State of Illinois official, F. Niziolek of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS), regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official stated that the IDNS chooses not to provide any comments on the proposed action.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have

a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated November 13, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated May 11 and August 3, 1999. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20003-1527.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thomas Koshy,

Acting Chief, Events Assessment, Generic Communications and Non-Power Reactors Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-24668 Filed 9-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Materials and Metallurgy; Postponed

A meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy scheduled to be held on September 22, 1999, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland has been postponed due to the unavailability of a staff document. Notice of the meeting was published in the **Federal Register** on Friday, September 3, 1999 (64 FR 48439). Rescheduling of this meeting will be announced in a future **Federal Register** Notice.

Further information contact: Mr. Noel F. Dudley, cognizant ACRS staff engineer, (telephone 301/415-6888) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EDT).

Dated: September 16, 1999.

Richard P. Savio,

Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW.

[FR Doc. 99-24666 Filed 9-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of September 20, 27, October 4, 11, and 18, 1999.

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

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of September 20

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.

Week of October 4—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of October 4.

Week of October 11—Tentative

Thursday, October 14

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

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/SECY/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 wmmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: September 17, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-24682 Filed 9-17-99; 2:03 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

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 28, 1999, through September 10, 1999. The last biweekly notice was published on September 8, 1999 (64 FR 48858).

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)