

from labor organization reports. Also included are electronic copies of documents created using electronic mail and word processing. Proposed for permanent retention are recordkeeping copies of historically significant investigative case files and LORS data in CD-ROM format, with related documentation. Paper copies of labor organization reports and related correspondence were previously approved for disposal.

9. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (N1-433-00-1, 37 items, 34 temporary items). Records relating to agency directives and other issuances. Included are issuances that pertain to administrative management, bulletins that provide information of interest to agency employees, and files relating to the preparation of issuances. Electronic copies of documents created using electronic mail and word processing also are included. Recordkeeping copies of manuals, handbooks, and other issuances that pertain to agency organization, policies, and procedures are proposed for permanent retention.

10. Department of the Navy, United States Marine Corps (N1-NU-00-1, 7 items, 7 temporary items). Field supply comprehensive analysis records and related logistics reports as well as environmental protection records relating to lead and copper control. Records include critiques, background information, and findings regarding supply problems, reports on logistical difficulties, and reports and related records on the control of lead and copper in water systems. Also proposed for disposal are electronic copies of documents created using electronic mail and word processing.

11. Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board (N1-134-99-3, 1 item, 1 temporary item). Official tariff files relating to the rates and practices of carriers regarding the transportation of property and passengers. This schedule reduces the retention period of the records, which were previously approved for disposal.

12. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development (N1-412-97-4, 6 items, 5 temporary items). Applications and related records pertaining to the use of alternate test procedures for monitoring water and air pollutants. Proposed for permanent retention are records relating to approved alternate test procedures for monitoring radioactive materials.

13. Environmental Protection Agency, Agency-wide (N1-412-00-4, 4 items, 4 temporary items). Records associated with the Grants Information and Control System (GICS), including software

programs, electronic data, ad hoc and monthly reports, and supporting documentation. GICS is a tracking system for financial, administrative, and project data for grants, interagency agreements, and cooperative agreements.

14. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Electric Power Regulation (N1-138-99-7, 3 items, 3 temporary items). Transmission Planning and Evaluation Reports, which are submitted annually by transmitting utilities that own or operate integrated transmission facilities at or above 100 kilovolts. Reports relate to transmission planning, constraints, and available transmission capacity. Also included are electronic copies of documents created using electronic mail and word processing.

15. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Chief Information Officer (N1-138-98-12, 6 items, 6 temporary items). Records associated with the Publications and Correspondence Tracking System (PACTS), an automated system used to track the status of requests for information from the Commission's public reference room. Included are such records as the PACTS electronic database, reports generated from the database, and systems documentation.

16. Office of Management and Budget, Cost Accounting Standards Board (N1-51-00-1, 1 item, 1 temporary item). Accounting disclosure statements accumulated during the period 1968 to 1980. Statements, which were submitted by contractors performing work for the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, include information on annual total sales to the government and the allocation of expenses.

17. Social Security Administration (N1-47-00-1, 47 items, 33 temporary items). Older records accumulated by various agency administrative and program offices, primarily during the period 1935 to 1945, that relate to such matters as accounting, personnel management, grants, information services, and disability insurance. Included are such records as blank survey forms, press clippings, quarterly workload reports, working papers and survey files used to prepare reports, closed state grant-in-aid reports and audits, ledgers of expenditures for grant-in-aid programs, grant docket files, subject files relating to hospital facilities, personnel subject files, and time and attendance files. Records proposed for permanent retention, which span the period 1935 to 1966, include correspondence, subject files,

reports, and related program records of the Bureau of Public Assistance, the Social Security Board Information Services unit, the Office of Program Operations, the Office of Federal-State Relations, the Office of Research and Statistics, and the Office of the Actuary.

18. Tennessee Valley Authority, Engineering Services (N1-142-97-12, 17 items, 17 temporary items). Meteorological and precipitation data used to provide raw data for reports on precipitation in the Tennessee River Basin issued monthly and annually. Records include rain gauge recorder charts, observer reports and weather summaries, visibility data charts and reports, and records relating to equipment validation.

19. District Courts of the United States, All District Courts (N1-21-00-2, 1 item, 1 temporary item). Subpoenas that were issued for persons outside of a court's district. Such subpoenas are no longer accumulated by District Courts.

20. District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (N1-21-99-1, 10 items, 6 temporary items). Older records dating from approximately 1899 to 1970 relating to hospital liens, mechanic liens, attorney grievances, appearance bonds, notaries, and applications from ministers seeking authority to perform marriages. Case files relating to persons committed to mental health facilities, adoptions, and guardianship are proposed for permanent retention.

Dated: February 24, 2000.

**Michael J. Kurtz,**

*Assistant Archivist for Record Services—Washington, DC.*

[FR Doc. 00-3341 Filed 2-11-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7515-01-P**

## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

### **Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee; Meeting**

The National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

*Name:* Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC).

*Date and Time:* Wednesday, March 8, 2000, 2:00-4:00 pm.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, Room 375, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed. The meeting is closed to the public because future fiscal year budget and policy issues will be discussed.

*Contact Person:* Charles E. Myers, Office of Polar Programs, Room 755, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone: (703) 306-1029.

*Purpose of Committee:* The Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee was established by Public Law 98-373, the Arctic Research and Policy Act, to help set priorities

for future arctic research, assist in the development of a national arctic research policy, prepare a multi-agency budget and plan for arctic research, and simplify coordination of arctic research.

*Proposed Meeting Agenda Items:*

1. U.S. Arctic Policy Review.
2. Goals and Opportunities Report of the Arctic Research Commission.
3. IARPC Program Initiatives—Global Change Research, Arctic Environmental Change.
4. Implementation of Program Initiatives in FY 2001–2005.

**Charles E. Myers,**

*Head, Interagency Arctic Staff, Office of Polar Programs.*

[FR Doc. 00–3372 Filed 2–11–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Dockets 72–4 and 72–40]

### **Duke Energy Corporation, Oconee Nuclear Site; Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Proposed Exemption From Certain Requirements of 10 CFR Part 72**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the provisions of 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2) and 72.214 to Duke Energy Corporation (Duke). The requested exemption would allow Duke to store burnable poison rod assemblies (BPRAs) in the NUHOMS®–24P storage system at the Oconee Nuclear Site Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI).

#### **Environmental Assessment (EA)**

##### *Identification of Proposed Action*

By letter dated August 30, 1999, Duke requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2) and 72.214 to store BPRAs in the NUHOMS®–24P storage system at the Oconee Nuclear Site ISFSI. Duke is a general licensee, authorized by NRC to use spent fuel storage casks approved under 10 CFR part 72, Subpart K. Furthermore, Duke is using the NUHOMS®–24P storage system design approved by NRC under Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1004 to store only spent fuel at the ISFSI.

By exempting Duke from both 10 CFR 72.214 and 72.212(a)(2), Duke will be authorized to use its general license to store BPRAs in casks approved under part 72, as exempted. The proposed action before the Commission is

whether to grant these exemptions under 10 CFR 72.7.

The ISFSI is located 30 miles west of Greenville, SC, on the Oconee Nuclear Power Plant site. The Oconee Nuclear Site ISFSI is an existing facility constructed for interim dry storage of spent nuclear fuel.

On July 26, 1999, the cask designer, Transnuclear West Inc. (TN West), submitted a CoC amendment request to NRC to address the storage of Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) 15x15 and Westinghouse 17x17 fuel assembly types with BPRAs. TN West provided additional information and revised calculations on November 29, 1999, in response to the NRC staff's request. The NRC staff has reviewed the application and determined that storing B&W 15x15 and Westinghouse 17x17 fuel assembly types with BPRAs in the NUHOMS®–24P storage system would have minimal impact on the design basis and would not be inimical to public health and safety.

##### *Need for the Proposed Action*

Duke has an imminent need to reduce the inventory of spent nuclear fuel assemblies at the Oconee Nuclear Site prior to an upcoming refueling activity that requires empty fuel storage locations in the spent fuel pool. Furthermore, Duke must load spent fuel containing BPRAs to accommodate the number of planned and potential refueling activities that require empty spent fuel storage locations scheduled for the first calendar quarter of 2000. Because the 10 CFR part 72 rulemaking to amend the CoC will not be completed prior to the date that Duke needs to begin loading the NUHOMS®–24P with fuel containing BPRAs, the NRC is granting this exemption based on the staff's technical review of information submitted by Duke and TN West.

##### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The potential environmental impact of using the NUHOMS®–24P storage system was initially presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Final Rule to add the NUHOMS®–24P to the list of approved spent fuel storage casks in 10 CFR 72.214 (59 FR 65898 (1994)). Furthermore, each general licensee must assess the environmental impacts of the specific ISFSI in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 72.212(b)(2). This section also requires the general licensee to perform written evaluations to demonstrate compliance with the environmental requirements of 10 CFR 72.104, "Criteria for radioactive materials in effluents and direct radiation from an

ISFSI or MRS [Monitored Retrievable Storage Installation]."

The NUHOMS®–24P storage system is designed to mitigate the effects of design basis accidents that could occur during storage. Design basis accidents account for human-induced events and the most severe natural phenomena reported for the site and surrounding area. Postulated accidents analyzed for an ISFSI include tornado winds and tornado generated missiles, design basis earthquake, design basis flood, accidental cask drop, lightning effects, fire, explosions, and other incidents.

Special cask design features of the NUHOMS®–24P storage system include a horizontal canister system composed of a steel dry shielded canister (DSC), a reinforced concrete horizontal storage module (HSM) and a transfer cask (TC). The welded DSC provides confinement and criticality control for the storage and transfer of spent nuclear fuel. The concrete module provides radiation shielding while allowing cooling of the DSC and fuel by natural convection during storage. The TC is used for transferring the DSC from/to the spent fuel pool building to/from the HSM.

Considering the specific design requirements for each accident condition, the design of the cask would prevent loss of containment, shielding, and criticality control. Without the loss of either containment, shielding, or criticality control, the risk to public health and safety is not compromised.

The staff performed a detailed safety evaluation of the proposed exemption request and the CoC amendment request and found that the addition of the BPRAs to the B&W 15x15 and Westinghouse 17x17 fuel types does not reduce the safety margin. In addition, the staff has determined that the storage of BPRAs in the NUHOMS®–24P storage system does not pose any increased risk to public health and safety.

Furthermore, the proposed action now under consideration would not change the potential environmental effects assessed in the initial rulemaking (59 FR 65898 (1994)).

Therefore, the staff has determined that there is no reduction in the safety margin nor significant environmental impacts as a result of storing B&W 15x15 or Westinghouse 17x17 fuel types with BPRAs in the NUHOMS®–24P storage system.

##### *Alternative to the Proposed Action*

The staff evaluated other alternatives involving removal of the BPRAs from the fuel assemblies and found that these alternatives produced a greater occupational exposure, increased handling and storage costs, and an