

required to keep records; 239 (104 reactor sites and 135 materials licensees are required to submit reports in accordance with 10 CFR 20.2206(a).

6. *The number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:*

NRC Form 4: 12,176 hours or an average of 0.5 hours per response.

NRC Form 5: 67,460 hours (57,900 hours for recordkeeping or an average of 13 hours per recordkeeper and 9,560 hours for reporting or an average of 40 hours per licensee).

7. *Abstract:*

NRC Form 4 is used to record the summary of an individual's cumulative occupational radiation dose up to and including the current year to ensure that the dose does not exceed regulatory limits.

NRC Form 5 is used to record and report the results of individual monitoring for occupational radiation exposure during a one-year (calendar year) period to ensure regulatory compliance with annual radiation dose limits.

Submit, by August 6, 2004, comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?
2. Is the burden estimate accurate?
3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Room O-1 F21, Rockville, MD 20852. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/index.html>. The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T-5 F52, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by telephone at 301-415-7233, or by Internet electronic mail to [infocollects@nrc.gov](mailto:infocollects@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of June 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Brenda Jo. Shelton,**

*NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket No's. 50-413-OLA, 50-414-OLA, ASLBP No. 03-815-03-OLA]**

### **Atomic Safety and Licensing Board; Duke Energy Corporation (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2); Amended, Notice of Evidentiary Hearing and Opportunity To Make Limited Appearance Statements**

May 28, 2004.

*Before Administrative Judges:* Ann Marshall Young, Chair, Anthony J. Baratta, Thomas S. Elleman.

This Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hereby provides this amended notice of hearing, revising its earlier May 20, 2004, Notice of Hearing. See 69 FR 29,982 (May 26, 2004). The Board will still, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.715(a), entertain oral limited appearance statements from members of the public, as specified in Section A below, in afternoon and evening sessions on *June 15, 2004, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., respectively*, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The evidentiary hearing previously scheduled to commence on June 15, 2004, in Charlotte is, however, as specified in Section D below, rescheduled now to commence on *July 14, 2004*, at the NRC Offices in Rockville, Maryland, where the Board will receive testimony and exhibits and allow the cross-examination of witnesses on certain matters at issue in this proceeding. This rescheduling was requested by Intervenor Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), with the agreement of Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) and the NRC Staff, because of the unavoidable and extreme circumstance of the unavailability of BREDL's expert to prepare for the June hearing dates due to family health issues.

As previously noted, this proceeding involves certain challenges of BREDL to Duke's request to amend the operating license for its Catawba Nuclear Station to allow the use of four mixed oxide (MOX) lead test assemblies at the station. (MOX fuel contains a mixture of plutonium and uranium oxides, with plutonium providing the primary fissile isotopes; Duke has submitted its request as part of the ongoing U.S.-Russian Federation plutonium disposition

program, a nuclear nonproliferation program to dispose of surplus plutonium from nuclear weapons by converting the material into MOX fuel and using that fuel in nuclear reactors.) On September 17, 2003, this Licensing Board was established to preside over this proceeding. 68 FR 55,414 (Sept. 25, 2003). By Memoranda and Orders dated March 5 and April 12, 2004 (the latter sealed as Safeguards Information; redacted version issued May 28, 2004), the Licensing Board granted BREDL's request for hearing and admitted various non-security-related and security-related contentions. LBP-04-04, 59 NRC (2004); LBP-04-10, 59 NRC (2004). At the July evidentiary hearing, the Board will receive evidence on BREDL's non-security-related Contention I, challenging the adequacy of certain aspects of Duke's license amendment request relating to asserted differences in the behavior of MOX fuel and typical low enriched uranium fuel and the impact of those differences on accident scenario analyses for the Catawba plant.

### **A. Participation Guidelines for Limited Appearance Session**

On *June 15, 2004, in two sessions, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., respectively, in a portion of the Grand Ballroom (lobby level) of the Omni Charlotte Hotel (132 East Trade Street)*, any persons who are not parties to the proceeding will be permitted to make oral statements setting forth their positions on matters of concern relating to this proceeding. Although these statements do not constitute testimony or evidence, they may nonetheless help the Board and/or the parties in their consideration of the issues in this proceeding.

The time allotted for each statement will normally be no more than five minutes, but may be further limited depending on the number of written requests to make oral statements that are submitted in accordance with Section C below, and/or on the number of persons present the evening of June 15, 2004. Persons who submit timely written requests to make oral statements will be given priority over those who have not filed such requests. If all scheduled and unscheduled speakers present have made their oral statements prior to 9 p.m., the Licensing Board may terminate the session before 9 p.m.

### **B. Submitting Requests To Make an Oral Limited Appearance Statements**

To be considered timely, a written request to make an oral statement must be mailed, faxed, or sent by e-mail so as to be received by close of business (4:30

p.m. EST) on *Monday, June 7, 2004*.

Written requests should be submitted to:

*Mail:* Office of the Secretary,  
Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff,  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Washington, DC 20555-0001.

*Fax:* (301) 415-1101 (verification  
(301) 415-1966).

*E-mail:* [hearingdocket@nrc.gov](mailto:hearingdocket@nrc.gov).

In addition, using the same method of service, a copy of the written request to make an oral statement should be sent to the Chair of this Licensing Board as follows:

*Mail:* Administrative Judge Ann Marshall Young, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

*Fax:* 301/415-5599 (verification 301/415-7550).

*E-mail:* [AMY@nrc.gov](mailto:AMY@nrc.gov).

### C. Submitting Written Limited Appearance Statements

A written limited appearance statement may be submitted at any time. Such statements should be sent to the Office of the Secretary using any of the methods prescribed above, with a copy to the Licensing Board Chair by the same method.

### D. Timing and Location of Evidentiary Hearing

The evidentiary hearing will commence at 1 p.m. on *Wednesday, July 14, 2004*, in the NRC offices at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, in Rockville, Maryland. The hearing of the above-described evidence will continue at 9 a.m. on July 15, and may go into the evenings of July 14 and/or 15, as necessary. At the conclusion of each day, the Board will announce when the hearing will reconvene. The Board may make changes in the schedule, lengthening or shortening each day's session or canceling a session as deemed necessary or appropriate to allow for witnesses' availability and other matters arising during the course of the proceeding.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend any and all sessions of this evidentiary hearing, but should note that these sessions are adjudicatory proceedings open to the public for observation only. Those who wish to participate are invited to offer limited appearance statements on June 15 or in written statements, as provided above. Those who wish to attend the July 14-15, 2004, hearing should come to the front entrance of the Two White Flint North building (the second building south of the entrance to the White Flint Metro station) and indicate to the

security guard on duty that they wish to attend the "Catowba hearing"; arrangements will then be made to direct persons attending to the hearing room.

### E. Availability of Documentary Information Regarding the Proceeding

Documents relating to this proceeding are available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland; or electronically through the publicly available records component of the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible through the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The PDR and many public libraries have terminals for public access to the Internet. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in obtaining access to the documents located in ADAMS may contact the NRC PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800/397-4209 or 301/415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Rockville, Maryland, May 28, 2004.

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

**Ann Marshall Young,**

*Chair, Administrative Judge.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-382]

### Entergy Operations Inc.; Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of exemptions from Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 50.46 and Appendix K, for Facility Operating License No. NPF-38, issued to Entergy Operations Inc. (the licensee), for operation of the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3), located in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt Waterford 3 from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.46 and

Appendix K, to allow the use of up to four Lead Test Assemblies (LTAs) fabricated with Optimized ZIRLO™, a cladding material that contains a nominally lower tin content than previously approved cladding materials.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated April 30, 2004.

#### The Need for the Proposed Action

As the nuclear industry pursues longer operating cycles with increased fuel discharge burnup and more aggressive fuel management, the corrosion performance requirements for the nuclear fuel cladding become more demanding. Available industry data from the American Nuclear Society, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Electric Power Research Institute, and Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Westinghouse) indicate that corrosion resistance improves for cladding with a lower tin content. The optimum tin level provides a reduced corrosion rate while maintaining the benefits of mechanical strengthening and resistance to accelerated corrosion from abnormal chemistry conditions. In addition, fuel rod internal pressures (resulting from the increased fuel duty, use of integral fuel burnable absorbers and corrosion/temperature feedback effects) have become more limiting with respect to fuel rod design criteria. Reducing the associated corrosion buildup, and thus, minimizing temperature feedback effects, provides additional margin to fuel rod internal pressure design criteria.

To meet these needs, Westinghouse developed a LTA program in cooperation with Entergy Operations Inc., which includes a fuel cladding with a tin content lower than the currently licensed range for ZIRLO™. The NRC's regulations in 10 CFR 50.46 and Appendix K, make no provision for use of fuel rods clad in a material other than Zircalloy or ZIRLO™. The licensee has requested the use of up to four LTAs with a tin composition that is less than that specified in the licensing basis for ZIRLO™, as defined in Westinghouse design specifications. Therefore, use of the LTAs calls for exemptions from 10 CFR 50.46 and Appendix K.

#### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemptions would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents.