

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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[Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446]

**Texas Utilities Electric Company;
(Comanche Peak Steam Electric
Station, Units 1 and 2); Exemption**

I

Texas Utilities Electric Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-87 and NPF-89 for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Unit Nos 1 and 2 (CPSES) respectively. The operating licenses provide, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facilities consists of two pressurized water reactors at the licensee's site in Somervell County, Texas.

II

It is stated in 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against radiological sabotage," paragraph (a), that "The licensee shall establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will have as its objective to provide high assurance that activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety."

It is specified in 10 CFR 73.55(d), "Access Requirements," paragraph (1), that "the licensee shall control all points of personnel and vehicle access into a protected area." It is specified in 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) that "A numbered picture badge identification system shall be used for all individuals who are authorized access to protected areas without escort * * *" It also states that an individual not employed by the licensee (i.e., contractors) may be authorized access to protected areas without escort provided the individual "receives a picture badge upon entrance into the protected area which must be returned upon exit from the protected area * * *"

The licensee proposed to implement an alternative unescorted access control system which would eliminate the need to issue and retrieve badges at each entrance/exit location and would allow

all individuals with unescorted access to keep their badges with them when departing the site.

An exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) is required to allow contractors who have unescorted access to take their badges offsite instead of returning them when exiting the site. By letter dated January 16, 1995 (TXX-95012), as supplemented by letters dated March 1 (TXX-95064), and April 3, 1995 (TXX-95089), the licensee requested an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) for this purpose.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, the Commission may authorize a licensee to provide measures for protection against radiological sabotage provided the licensee demonstrates that the measures have "the same high assurance objective" and meet "the general performance requirements" of the regulation, and "the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent" to that which would be provided by the regulation.

At the CPSES site, unescorted access into protected areas is controlled through the use of a photograph on a combination badge and keycard. (Hereafter, these are referred to as badges.) The security officers at the entrance station use the photograph on the badge to visually identify the individual requesting access. The badges for both licensee employees and contractor personnel who have been granted unescorted access are issued upon entrance at the entrance/exit location and are returned upon exit. The badges are stored and are retrievable at the entrance/exit location. In accordance with 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), contractor individuals are not allowed to take badges offsite. In accordance with the plant's physical security plan, neither licensee employees nor contractors are allowed to take badges offsite.

Under the proposed system, each individual who is authorized for unescorted access into protected areas would have the physical characteristics of their hand (hand geometry) registered with their badge number in the access control system. When an individual

enters the badge into the card reader and places their hand on the measuring surface, the system would record the individual's hand image. The unique characteristics of the extracted hand image would be compared with the previously stored template in the access control system to verify authorization for entry. Individuals, including licensee employees and contractors, would be allowed to keep their badges with them when they depart the site and thus eliminate the process to issue, retrieve and store badges at the entrance stations to the plant. Badges do not carry any information other than a unique identification number.

All other access processes, including search function capability, would remain the same. This system would not be used for persons requiring escorted access, i.e., visitors.

Based on a Sandia report entitled, "A Performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices" (SAND91-0276 UC-906 Unlimited Release, printed June 1991), and on the licensee's experience with the current photo-identification system, the licensee stated that the false acceptance rate for the hand geometry system is comparable to that of the current system. The biometric system has been in use for a number of years at several sensitive Department of Energy facilities. The licensee will implement a process for testing the proposed system to ensure continued overall level of performance equivalent to that specified in the regulation. The Physical Security Plan for CPSES will be revised to include implementation and testing of the hand geometry access control system and to allow licensee employees and contractors to take their badges offsite.

The licensee will control all points of personnel access into a protected area under the observation of security personnel through the use of a badge and verification of hand geometry. A numbered picture badge identification system will continue to be used for all individuals who are authorized unescorted access to protected areas. Badges will continue to be displayed by all individuals while inside the protected area.

Since both the badges and hand geometry would be necessary for access into the protected areas, the proposed system would provide for a positive verification process and the potential loss of a badge by an individual, as a result of taking the badge offsite, would not enable an unauthorized entry into protected areas.

For the foregoing reasons, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed

alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage meet "the same high assurance objective," and "the general performance requirements" of the regulation and that "the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent" to that which would be provided by the regulation.

IV

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, this exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, as long as the license uses the hand geometry access control system, the Commission hereby grants Texas Utilities Electric Company an exemption from those requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) relating to the returning of picture badges upon exit from the protected area such that individuals not employed by the licensee, i.e., contractors, who are authorized unescorted access into the protected area, may take their picture badges offsite.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (60 FR 21835). This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of May 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Elinor G. Adensam,

Acting Director, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-35734; File No. SR-Amex-95-17]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; American Stock Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing of Proposed Rule Change Regarding Depository Eligibility Requirements

May 18, 1995.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"),¹ notice is hereby given that on May 16, 1995, the American Stock Exchange, Inc. ("Amex") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and

III below, which items have been prepared primarily by Amex. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

Amex proposes to adopt a rule which will set forth depository eligibility requirements for issuers that apply to list their securities on Amex.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, Amex included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The self-regulatory organization has prepared summaries, set forth in sections (A), (B), and (C) below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.²

(A) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

Under the proposed rule change, Amex will adopt a uniform depository eligibility rule for issuers that desire to list their securities on Amex. The uniform rule has been developed by the Legal and Regulatory Subgroup of the U.S. working Committee of the Group of Thirty in coordination with each of the national securities exchanges and the National Association of Securities Dealers ("NASD"). It is anticipated that each national securities exchange and the NASD will file rule changes proposing adoption of depository eligibility standards substantially similar to Amex's proposed rule and will seek to make such changes effective contemporaneously with the effective date of the transition from a five-day ("T+5") to a three-day ("T+3") settlement cycle. The transition is set to occur June 7, 1995.³

The proposed model depository eligibility rule is intended to encourage issuers and underwriters to take the simple steps necessary to make the issuers' securities depository eligible

² The Commission has modified the language in these sections.

³ Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 33023 (October 6, 1993), 58 FR 52891 (adoption of Rule 15c6-1) and 34952 (November 9, 1994), 59 FR 59137 (change of effective date of Rule 15c6-1 from June 1, 1995 to June 7, 1995).

although it is carefully structured so that it will not preclude from listing idiosyncratic securities which cannot be made to meet all depositories' requirements. The proposed rule will require that before any issue of securities of a domestic issuer (excluding American Depository Receipts for securities of a foreign issuer) is listed on Amex, Amex must have received a representation from the issuer that a CUSIP number identifying the securities has been included in the file of eligible issues maintained by a securities depository registered as a clearing agency under Section 17A of the Act.⁴ This requirement will not apply to a security if the terms of such security cannot be reasonably modified to meet the criteria for depository eligibility at all securities depositories.

The need of syndicate managers to monitor "flipping" also has been recognized. As a result, the proposed rule change sets forth additional requirements that must be met before a security will be deemed to be "depository eligible," as such term is used in Part IV, Section 3, Rule 776 of the Amex rules ("book-entry settlement of transactions rule").⁵ The proposed rule specifies different requirements for depository eligibility depending upon whether a new issue is distributed by an underwriting syndicate before or after the date a securities depository system is available for monitoring repurchases of the distributed shares by syndicate members ("flipping tracing system").

Currently, a flipping tracking system is being developed that will include a securities depository service that (i) can be activated upon the request of the managing underwriter for a period of time that the managing underwriter specifies, (ii) in certain circumstances, will require the delivering participant to provide to the depository information sufficient to identify the seller of such shares as a precondition to the processing of book-entry delivery instructions for distributed shares, and (iii) will report to the managing underwriter the identity of any other syndicate member or selling group member whose customer(s) sold distributed shares (but will not report to the managing underwriter the identity of such customer[s]) and, in certain circumstances, will report to such syndicate member or selling group member the identity of such customer(s). Prior to the availability of

⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1 (1988).

⁵ Pursuant to Amex's book-entry settlement of transactions rule, trades by a member in depository eligible securities generally must be settled by book-entry through a securities depository.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1) (1988).