

picture badge identification system shall be used for all individuals who are authorized access to protected areas without escort." It further states that individuals not employed by the licensee (e.g., contractors) may be authorized access to protected areas without an escort provided that the individual, "receives a picture badge upon entrance into the protected area which must be returned upon exit from the protected area * * *."

By letter dated March 13, 1995, the licensee requested an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5). Specifically, the requested exemption would allow contractors who have unescorted access to retain possession of their picture badges instead of returning them as they exit the protected area. (The existing regulations allow licensee employees authorized unescorted access to protected areas to retain their badges upon departure from the protected area.) The proposed exemption is a preliminary step towards enabling SCE to revise the SONGS security plan under 10 CFR 50.54(p) to facilitate implementation of an alternative unescorted access system which would eliminate the need for site security personnel to issue and retrieve picture badges at the entrance/exit locations to the protected area and would eventually allow all individuals (contractors and SCE employees) with unescorted access to the protected area to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the SONGS protected area.

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. The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 73.55 allows the Commission to authorize a licensee to provide alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage provided the licensee demonstrates that the proposed measures meet 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.

Currently, unescorted access into the protected area for both employee and contractor personnel into the SONGS plants is controlled through the use of picture badges. Positive identification of

personnel who are authorized and request access into the protected area is established by security personnel making a visual comparison of the individual requesting access and that individual's picture badge. In accordance with 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), contractor personnel are not allowed to take their picture badges offsite. In addition, in accordance with the plant's physical security plan, the licensee's employees are also not allowed to take their picture badges offsite.

The proposed alternative measure, to provide an equivalent level of protection against radiological sabotage, is a system that will require that all individuals with authorized unescorted access have the physical characteristics of their hand (hand geometry) registered with their picture badge number in a computerized access control system. Therefore, all authorized individuals must not only have their picture badge to gain access to the protected area, but must also have their hand geometry confirmed. Initially, following revision to the site security plan, individuals with unescorted access will be allowed to retrieve their own badges before entering the protected area and return their badges to storage locations when existing the protected area for retrieval on their next entrance. Eventually, following changes to the security plan conducted under 10 CFR 50.54(p), all individuals, including contractors, who have authorized unescorted access into the protected area may be allowed to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the SONGS protected area.

All other access processes, including search function capability, will remain the same. A security officer responsible for access control will continue to be positioned within a hardened structure. It should be noted that the proposed system is only for individuals with authorized unescorted access and will not be used for those individuals requiring escorts.

Sandia National Laboratories conducted testing which demonstrated that the hand geometry equipment that SCE proposed to use possesses strong performance characteristic. Details of the testing performed, available in the Sandia report, "A performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices," SAND91-0276 UC-906 Unlimited Release, June 1991, demonstrated that the hand geometry equipment is capable of meeting a detection probability of 90 percent with a 95 percent confidence level. Based on the Sandia report, the false acceptance rate for the proposed hand geometry system would be at least equivalent to

that of the current photo-identification system. The site security plans will be revised in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(p) to allow implementation of the hand geometry system.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission has determined that the proposed alternative measure for protection against radiological sabotage meet the same high assurance objective and the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55. In addition, the staff has determined that the overall level of the proposed system's performance will provide protection against radiological sabotage equivalent to that which is provided by the current system in accordance with 10 CFR 73.55.

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, the Commission hereby grants Southern California Edison 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, can retrieve their own badges before entering the protected area and return their badges to the badge storage location when existing the protected area.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (60 FR 37110 as July 19, 1995).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of July 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brian K. Grimes,

Director, Divisions of Project Support, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations.

[FR Doc. 95-18926 Filed 8-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

Status and Notice of Availability of Two Policy Statements Concerning the Agreement State Program

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Status of policy statements and notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing the

status of Commission action on the two policy statements: Statement of Principles and Policy for the Agreement State Program and the Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs. NRC is also announcing the availability of the policy statements to interested parties.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the policy statements may be obtained by calling Vicki Bolling at (301)-415-2326 or by writing to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Document Control Desk, P1-37, Washington, DC 20555, Attn: Vicki Bolling, OSP. These documents are available for inspection in the Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., (Lower Level), Washington, DC between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kathleen Schneider, Office of State Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301)-415-2320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission has approved, in principle, the Policy Statements entitled "Statement of Principles and Policy for the Agreement State Program" and "Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs" with the stipulations discussed below.

The Commission is going to defer implementation of the policy statements until implementing procedures are developed and approved by the Commission. The NRC staff is to develop the implementing procedures and any necessary changes to the two policy statements and resubmit the policy statements and implementing procedures to the Commission by September 30, 1996. Copies of the two policy statements may be obtained from the address listed in this notice. Until the policy statements and final implementing procedures are approved by the Commission, the NRC staff will continue to use the policy statement on Discontinuance of the NRC Authority and Assumption Thereof by States Through Agreement: Criteria for Guidance of States and NRC, published January 23, 1981 (46 FR 7540), as revised July 21, 1983 (48 FR 33376), for new agreements.

The Office of State Programs B.7 Procedure for compatibility will be utilized in connection with the interim implementation of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) to evaluate Agreement State programs until the final implementing procedures for the two policy statements and any revisions to the policy statements are approved by the Commission. NRC plans to issue a

Federal Register Notice in the near future, which will address how IMPEP will be integrated into the current framework for Agreement State program reviews.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of July, 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John C. Hoyle,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 95-18925 Filed 8-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Documents Containing Reporting or Recordkeeping Requirements: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of the OMB review of information collection.

SUMMARY: The NRC has recently submitted to the OMB for review the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

1. Type of submission, new, revision, or extension: Revision.

2. The title of the information collection: Simulation Facility Certification.

3. The form number if applicable: NRC Form 474.

4. How often the collection is required: One time requirement for initial certification and quadrennial thereafter.

5. Who will be required or asked to report: All power reactor licensees and applicants for an operating license.

6. An estimate of the number of responses: 20 annually.

7. An estimate of the total number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request: 2,400 (approximately 120 hours per response).

8. An indication of whether Section 3504(h), Pub. L. 96-511 applies: Not applicable.

9. Abstract: Licensed power facilities that propose the use of a simulation facility consisting solely of a plant-referenced simulator for the conduct of NRC licensing operating tests are required to submit NRC Form 474.

The information on the form consists of the results of performance testing completed on the subject simulation facility and a schedule for the conduct of performance tests for the subsequent four-year period. NRC uses this information to ascertain the acceptability of simulation facilities for use in the conduct of operating tests for nuclear power plant operator and senior

operator candidates and to determine whether to initiate a simulation facility inspection at a specific site due to concerns about their suitability for use in operating tests.

Copies of the submittal may be inspected or obtained for a fee from the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer: Troy Hillier, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0138), NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. Comments can also be submitted by telephone at (202) 395-3084.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, (301) 415-7233.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of July, 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Gerald F. Cranford,

Designated Senior Official for Information Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 95-18930 Filed 8-1-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-254 and 50-265]

Commonwealth Edison Company, Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company, Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-29 and DPR-30, issued to Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee), for operation of Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Rock Island County, Illinois.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for Physical Protection of Licensed Activities in Nuclear Power Reactors Against Radiological Sabotage." The requested exemption would allow the implementation of a hand geometry biometric system of site access control in conjunction with photograph identification badges, and would allow the badges to be taken off site.