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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Herbert N. Berkow,

Director, Project Directorate II-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 95-21285 Filed 8-25-95; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 50-293]

Boston Edison Company (Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station); Exemption

I

The Boston Edison Company (BECO/ licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-35, which authorizes operation of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (the facility). The license provides, among other things, that the facilities are subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility is a boiling-water reactor located at the licensee's site in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

II

The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against radiological sabotage," paragraph (a), in part, states 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."

The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 73.55(d), "Access Requirements," paragraph (1), specifies that, "the licensee shall control all points of personnel and vehicle access into a protected area." The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) also requires that, "A numbered 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 escort provided that the individual, "receives a picture badge upon entrance into a protected area

which must be returned upon exit from the protected area. . . ."

The licensee proposes to implement an alternative unescorted access system which would eliminate the need to issue and retrieve picture badges at the entrance/exit location to the protected area and would allow all individuals, including contractors, to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the Pilgrim site.

By letter dated June 21, 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.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemption 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 alternative measures have the same "high assurance" objective, 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 Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station is controlled through the use of picture badges. Positive identification of personnel which 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 system 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. All individuals, including contractors, who have authorized unescorted access into the protected area will be allowed to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the Pilgrim site.

All other access processes, including search function capability and access revocation, will remain the same. A security officer responsible for access control will continue to be positioned within a bullet-resistant structure. It should also 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 possesses strong performance characteristics. Details of the testing performed are in the Sandia report, "A Performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices," SAND91-0276 UC-906 Unlimited Release, June 1991. Based on the Sandia report and the licensee's experience using the current photo picture identification system, the false acceptance rate for the proposed hand geometry system would be at least equivalent to that of the current system. To assure that the proposed system will continue to meet the general performance requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), the licensee will implement a process for testing the system. The site security plans will also be revised to allow implementation of the hand geometry system and to allow employees and contractors with unescorted access to keep their picture badges in their possession when leaving the Pilgrim site.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, 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 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 73.55, this exemption is authorized by

law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the following exemption:

The requirement of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) that individuals who have been granted unescorted access and are not employed by the licensee are to return their picture badges upon exit from the protected area is no longer necessary. Thus, these individuals may keep their picture badges in their possession upon leaving the Pilgrim site.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact (60 FR 42924).

This Exemption is effective upon issuance.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Steven A. Varga,

*Director, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 95-21286 Filed 8-25-95; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 040-02384]

Notice of Consideration of Amendment Request for Decommissioning the RMI Titanium Company Site in Ashtabula, Ohio, and Opportunity for Hearing

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an amendment to Source Material License No. SMB-602, issued to RMI Titanium Company (the Licensee), for the decommissioning of its extrusion plant facilities in Ashtabula, Ohio.

The Licensee requested the amendment in a letter dated June 12, 1995, requesting that License No. SMB-602 be amended to incorporate the decommissioning plan (DP) for the RMI Titanium Company Extrusion Plant submitted to NRC, on April 27, 1995. The Licensee also submitted a site characterization report and an environmental report in support of the DP. The amendment would authorize the Licensee to decommission the extrusion plant facility in Ashtabula, Ohio, in accordance with the DP.

Radioactive contamination at the extrusion plant facility resulted primarily from extrusion operations, using depleted, normal, and slightly enriched uranium. Uranium extrusion operations occurred from 1962 through 1988.

The NRC will require the Licensee to remediate the extrusion plant site to meet NRC's criteria, and, during the decommissioning activities, to maintain effluents as low as reasonably achievable.

Prior to the issuance of the proposed amendment, NRC will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and NRC's regulations. These findings will be documented in a Safety Evaluation Report and an Environmental Assessment.

The NRC hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license amendment falling within the scope of Subpart L, Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials Licensing Proceedings, of NRC's rules and practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR Part 2. Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(c). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice.

The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

1. By delivery to the Docketing and Service Branch of the Office of the Secretary at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738; or

2. By mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of the NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;

2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);

3. The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and

4. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

In accordance with 10 CFR § 2.1205(e), each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, RMI Titanium Company, P.O. Box 579, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004-579, Attention: Mr. Eric

Marsh, RMI Environmental Services, and

2. The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

For further details with respect to this action, the application for amendment request is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of August, 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michael F. Weber,

Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 95-21268 Filed 8-25-95; 8:45 am]

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[Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328]

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2; Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed no Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA or the licensee), for operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2 located in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

The proposed amendments would change Technical Specification 3.7.5.c to allow an increase in the average essential raw cooling water supply header temperature from 84.5 °F to 87 °F until September 30, 1995.

Exigent circumstances arose due to significant increases in the average water temperature of the Tennessee River (Chickamauga Reservoir), which serves as the ultimate heat sink (UHS) for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN) Units 1 and 2. This temperature, as measured at SQN's ERCW header, increased and on August 18, 1995, reached 83 °F. This high temperature is the result of daytime temperatures that remain above 90 °F. Continuing daytime high temperatures in the upper 90's are expected to cause the average ERCW temperature to increase at a rate of 0.5 °F per day. TS 3.7.5.c currently limits this temperature to less than or equal to