

Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Russell Library, 123 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of March, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Phillip F. McKee,  
*Director, Northeast Utilities Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*  
[FR Doc. 96-6520 Filed 3-18-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket No. 50-146]

**Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation; Notice of Transfer of Control of License**

Notice is hereby given that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval under 10 CFR 50.80 of the transfer of control of the license for the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF) to GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN) for all maintenance, characterization, decontamination, dismantlement, decommissioning, and other management related responsibilities. The current licensee, the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC), will remain as owner and joint holder of Amended Facility License No. DRP-4. Prior notice of consideration of a license amendment that would be required to reflect this proposed transfer and notice of an opportunity for a hearing in connection with the amendment was given on January 31, 1996 (61 FR 3502) in the Federal Register. SNEC, with the concurrence of GPUN, applied for approval of the transfer, as well as a license amendment, by letter dated November 21, 1995.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, the Commission may approve the transfer of control of a license, after notice to interested persons, upon the Commission's determination that the proposed transferee is qualified to be a holder of the license and the transfer of the control is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations and orders of the Commission.

For further details with respect to the subject transfer, see the application from SNEC dated November 21, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Saxton Community Library, 911 Church Street, Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of March 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
Seymour H. Weiss,  
*Director, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning, Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*  
[FR Doc. 96-6518 Filed 3-18-96; 8:45 am]  
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[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, 50-529, and 50-530]

**Arizona Public Service Company Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74 issued to Arizona Public Service Company, (the licensee), for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Environmental Assessment**

*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The Environmental Assessment is written in connection with the proposed core uprate for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in response to the licensee's application dated January 5, 1996. The proposed action would increase the rated thermal power (RTP) for Palo Verde from the current level of 3800 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 3876 MWt, an increase of 2 percent over the current RTP. To support the increased power operation, the licensee has also proposed amendment changes that would lower the allowable reactor coolant system cold-leg temperature limits for all three PVNGS Units and lower the pressurizer safety valve setpoints for Units 1 and 3. The PVNGS Unit 2 safety valve setpoints were revised by Amendment 78, approved March 28, 1995, to the same values being requested for Units 1 and 3. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated January 5, 1996.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action is needed to increase the electrical output by up to approximately 26 megawatts electric (MWe) and thus provide additional electrical power to the grids which service the commercial and residential areas of the owner utilities (the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement

and Power District, Southern California Edison Company, El Paso Electric Company, Public Service Company of New Mexico, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Southern California Public Power Authority).

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

A 2-percent increase in rated thermal power (RTP) is not a significant increase in power level. The Final Environmental Statement (FES) (NUREG-0841) recognized in the Summary and Conclusions Section that the maximum design thermal output for each unit is 4100 MWt. The proposed increase is less than maximum design thermal output evaluated during the FES construction permit stage (FES-CP). Thus the environmental effects previously evaluated for land and water usage are bounded by those previously evaluated. The increase in RTP does not change any of the conclusions of NUREG-0841.

The 2-percent RTP increase does not change the method of operation or modify the plant configuration, apart from minor changes in equipment setpoints. Thus no increase in the probability or consequences of an accident is created by the proposed amendment. System and programmatic reviews have been done of the nuclear steam supply system (NSSS) controls, the reactor coolant system, the steam generators, balance-of-plant systems, and the fire protection, equipment qualification, and probability risk assessment programs. The reviews concluded that operation in accordance with the changes proposed in this amendment was acceptable and posed no significant risk to the health and safety of the public. The analysis supporting this amendment demonstrates that the consequences of events under the increased-RTP conditions are within the criteria of the current licensing basis for the PVNGS units. Therefore the amendment, as proposed, does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The increase in RTP does not authorize construction, change the processes, plant equipment, or type of effluents, or significantly affect operation of the units. The proposed amendment will not significantly change the types or amount of radiological effluents from the facility. The changes are within the design basis of the balance-of-plant systems, and reviews of the NSSS have demonstrated the acceptability of operation at the increased-RTP conditions. Safety