

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
John W.N. Hickey,
*Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
Projects Branch, Division of Waste
Management Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards.*
[FR Doc. 97-6479 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, and
STN 50-530]

**Arizona Public Service Company; Palo
Verde Nuclear Generating Station,
Units 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 amendments to
Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41,
NPF-51, and NPF-74, issued to Arizona
Public Service Company (the licensee),
for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear
Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and
3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would modify
the licenses for Palo Verde Nuclear
Generating Station (PVNGS), Unit Nos.
1, 2, and 3, to authorize incorporation
in the Updated Final Safety Analysis
Report (UFSAR) a revised large-break
loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA)
analysis. The revised LBLOCA analysis
addresses a previously unanalyzed
release path through the steam
generators to the atmosphere.

The proposed action is in accordance
with the licensee's application dated
May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter
March 7, 1996.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would permit
the UFSAR to be revised to address a
previously unanalyzed release path
through the steam generators to the
atmosphere for the LBLOCA. This
would incorporate this release path into
the licensing basis of the facility.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed
Action*

The Commission has completed its
evaluation of the proposed action and
concludes that there are no significant
environmental considerations involved
with the proposed action. The
incorporation in the UFSAR for PVNGS
Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the previously
unanalyzed release path in the LBLOCA
does not affect the design or operation
of the plant, does not involve any
modifications to the plant or any
increase in the licensed power for the

plant, does not affect plant effluents,
does not increase the probability of any
postulated accident and will not create
a new accident, and does not create any
new or unreviewed environmental
impacts that were not considered in the
Final Environmental Statement (FES).

The FES did not consider in its
evaluation of a LBLOCA, the leakage of
containment atmosphere through the
steam generators and to the public.
Assessment of environmental impacts of
the LBLOCA accounted for radiological
releases from the containment and
emergency core cooling system into the
environment. For the revised analysis of
the LBLOCA, atmospheric releases
through the steam generators could be
considered part of the leakage of
containment atmosphere into the
environment, although the location of
release is different. The FES analyzed
radiological releases from the steam
generators to the environment in the
evaluation of the steam generator tube
rupture accident. Thus, the FES
evaluated releases to the environment
from steam generators, but this release
pathway was not included in the
LBLOCA analysis. The revised LBLOCA
analysis does not significantly increase
the environmental impacts of postulated
accidents which are discussed in
Section 5.9.2 of the FES, and is of no
measurable environmental impact.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded
there is no measurable environmental
impact associated with the proposed
action, any alternatives with equal or
greater environmental impact need not
be evaluated. As an alternative to the
proposed action, the staff considered
denial of the proposed action. Denial of
the application would result in no
change in current environmental
impacts. The environmental impacts of
the proposed action and the alternative
action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use
of any resources not previously
considered in the "Final Environmental
Statement Related to the Operation of
the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating
Station, Units 1, 2, and 3," dated
February 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy,
on March 7, 1997, the staff consulted
with the Arizona State official, Mr.
William Wright of the Arizona
Radiation Regulatory Agency, regarding
the environmental impact of the
proposed action. The State official had
no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental
assessment, the Commission concludes
that the proposed action will not have
a significant effect on the quality of the
human environment. Accordingly, the
Commission has determined not to
prepare an environmental impact
statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the
proposed action, see the licensee's letter
dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by
letter dated March 7, 1996, which is
available for public inspection at the
Commission's Public Document Room,
The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street,
NW., Washington, DC, and at the local
public document room located at the
Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central
Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day
of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
James W. Clifford,

*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate
IV-2, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-6481 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket No. 50-271]

**Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation; Vermont Yankee Nuclear
Power Station; Environmental
Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission (the Commission) is
considering issuance of an exemption
for Facility Operating License No. DPR-
28, issued to Vermont Yankee Nuclear
Power Corporation (the licensee), for
operation of the Vermont Yankee
Nuclear Power Station (the facility)
located in Windham County, Vermont.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Actions

The proposed exemption would grant
relief in certain outdoor areas of the
protected area of the facility to allow
use of security lighting for outdoor
access and egress and the performance
of one specified task in either of two
locations for compliance with Section
III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR part 50.
The exemption would include outdoor
portions of the protected area for access
and egress and for supply of nitrogen
from either of two outdoor locations: (1)
the 15,000 gallon liquid nitrogen
containment inerting tank located
outdoors, east of the reactor building, or
(2) nitrogen storage bottles located on
the west wall of the reactor building
equipment air lock.

The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated June 17, 1996.

The Need for the Proposed Actions

The need for this action arises for certain Appendix R fire scenarios whose safe shutdown strategy does not immediately depressurize the reactor and uses low pressure injections systems, and thus requires the safety relief valves (SRVs) to be actuated multiple times during a cooldown. Although each SRV accumulator has capacity for at least five valve strokes, a long term source of nitrogen, beyond the capacity of the SRV accumulators is required in order to provide for additional valve strokes for some scenarios. The nitrogen may be provided from either of two nitrogen storage locations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Actions

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption and concludes that the proposed exemption will provide sufficient fire protection that there is no increase in the risk of fires at the facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents.

The proposed exemption affects only the source of illumination credited for safe shutdown functions. No physical change results from the proposed exemption, and, as discussed above, the probability of fires has not been increased. Therefore, the change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed actions involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR part 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions.

Alternatives to the Proposed Actions

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed actions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed actions, the staff considered denial of the proposed actions. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed actions and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

These actions do not involve use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 26, 1997, the staff consulted with the Vermont State official, Mr. William K. Sherman of the Vermont Department of Public Service, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed actions. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to the proposed actions, see the application dated June 17, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 5th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Patrick D. Milano,
*Acting Director, Project Directorate I-3,
Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-6482 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Core Research Capabilities for the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research; Meeting

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: NRC staff and industry will discuss the core research capabilities of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

DATES: March 25, 1997, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Room O-1F7/9, One White Flint North (OWFN) Building, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lloyd Donnelly, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555 Telephone (301) 415-5828.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the core research capabilities of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in order for this office to continue active participation in cooperative safety research activities with other government agencies including DOE, industry, and international organizations concerned with nuclear reactor safety.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
David L. Morrison,
*Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory
Research.*

[FR Doc. 97-6477 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499]

South Texas Project; Local Public Document Room

Notice is hereby given that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will not be relocating the local public document room (LPDR) for records pertaining to Houston Lighting and Power Company's South Texas Project. The LPDR will remain at the J.M. Hodges Library, Wharton County Junior College, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas. The Library Director has informed the NRC staff that they will continue with the maintenance and operation of the South Texas LPDR.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Russell A. Powell,
*Chief, Freedom of Information/Local Public
Document Room Branch, Office of
Information Resources Management.*

[FR Doc. 97-6480 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P