

Environmental Assessment dated April 18, 1997. These items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

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Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of April 1997.

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. 97-11858 Filed 5-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 27-48]

### Notice of Amendment Consideration; US Ecology

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Consideration of an amendment to a license for disposal of low-level radioactive waste containing special nuclear material by US Ecology, incorporated and transfer of license to the State of Washington, and an opportunity for a hearing.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering a request to amend License No. 16-19204-01. This license is issued to US Ecology, Incorporated (US Ecology) for the disposal of wastes containing special nuclear material (SNM) in the low-level radioactive waste (LLW) disposal facility, located near Richland, Washington. NRC licenses this facility under 10 CFR part 70. The amendment would reduce the SNM possession limit of the license, and NRC would subsequently transfer the license to the State of Washington. Washington Department of Health (WADOH) already regulates disposal of source and byproduct material at the Richland facility.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy E. Harris, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-6613. Fax: (301) 415-5398.

### Background

The LLW disposal facility located near Richland, Washington, is licensed by NRC for possession, storage, and disposal of SNM. The State of Washington licenses disposal of source and byproduct material at the facility. In correspondence dated March 31, 1997, US Ecology requested amendment of its NRC SNM license and subsequent transfer of the license to the State. As justification for the request, US Ecology noted a reduction in SNM-bearing waste volumes and the diminished cost-effectiveness of the license. Currently, the NRC license permits possession, storage, and disposal of greater than critical mass quantities of SNM, and acknowledges that the State-regulated source and byproduct disposal activities constitute the major site activities. Possession, storage, and disposal of less than critical mass quantities can be regulated by Agreement States, in accordance with 10 CFR part 150 (Exemptions and Continued Regulatory Authority in Agreement States and in Offshore Waters Under Section 274). Specifically, § 150.11 defines less than critical mass limits of SNM which can be regulated by Agreement States.

NRC plans to amend the license to reduce the SNM possession limit to those specified in § 150.11. This amendment will result in a change in process operations. The reduction in possession limit will not significantly change the types or amounts of effluents that may be released offsite, will not increase individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, will not be a significant construction impact, and will not significantly increase the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents. Accordingly, the amendment is categorically exempt from an environmental assessment under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11). Following issuance of this amendment, NRC will transfer the license to WADOH.

NRC 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 Adjudication 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.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR part

2 of 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 requester in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requester should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);
3. The requester'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, US Ecology, Inc., 120 Franklin Road, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, Attention: Ms. Sandra Beeler, and;

2. NRC staff, by delivery to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudication Branch; or hand-deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD between 7:45 am and 4:15 pm, Federal workdays.

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

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of April 1997.

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. 97-11860 Filed 5-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-305]

### Wisconsin Public Service Company, Wisconsin Power and Light Company, and Madison Gas and Electric Company; Notice of 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 No. DPR-