

under the postulated accident condition.

The proposed exemption would not result in any significant radiological impacts. The proposed exemption would not affect radiological plant effluent nor cause any significant occupational exposures since the TS, design controls, including geometric spacing of fuel assembly storage spaces, and administrative controls preclude inadvertent criticality. The amount of radioactive waste would not be changed by the proposed exemption.

The proposed exemption does not result in any significant nonradiological environmental impacts. The proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded that 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 exemption, the staff considered denial of the requested exemption. Denial of the request 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 TMI-1 dated December 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 27, 1997, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. Maingi, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiation Protection, 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 February 7, 1997, as supplemented March 26 and June 5, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, which is located at The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Law/Government Publications Sections, State Library of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenues, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of June 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Bart C. Buckley,

Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate I-3, Division of Reactor Projects I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-282, 50-306, and 72-10]

Northern States Power Company (Prairie Island Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2), Prairie Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that by a Petition filed pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 on May 28, 1997, Prairie Island Indian Community (Petitioner) requested that the NRC (1) determine that Northern States Power (the licensee) violated the requirements of 10 CFR 72.122(l) by using its Materials License No. SNM-2506 for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) prior to establishing conditions for safely unloading the TN-40 dry storage containers; (2) suspend Materials License No. SNM-2506 for cause under 10 CFR 50.100 until such time as all significant issues in the unloading process, as described in the Petition, have been resolved, the unloading process has been demonstrated, and an independent third-party review of the TN-40 unloading procedure has been conducted; (3) provide Petitioners an opportunity to participate in the reviewing of the unloading procedure for the TN-40 cask, hold hearings, and allow Petitioners to participate fully in these and any other procedures initiated in response to the Petition; and (4) update the Technical Specifications for the Prairie Island ISFSI to incorporate mandatory unloading procedure requirements.

The Petition has been referred to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. By letter dated June 27, 1997, the Director denied Petitioner's request for immediate action. As provided by 10 CFR 2.206, further action will be taken within a reasonable time.

A copy of the Petition is available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of June 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frank J. Miraglia,

Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362]

Southern California Edison Company, et al. (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station); Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that by e-mail request dated April 25, 1997, Stephen Dwyer (Petitioner) requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission or NRC) supplement his 2.206 petition dated September 22, 1996, which is currently being considered by the NRC. In his September 22 2.206 petition, Mr. Dwyer requested that the NRC shut down the SONGS units as soon as possible pending a complete review of the seismic design of the SONGS units based on the new information gathered from the Landers and Northridge quakes. By NRC letter dated November 22, 1996, the NRC denied the Petitioner's September 22 request that the Commission immediately shut down SONGS.

In his April 25 e-mail to NRC Chairman Jackson, Mr. Dwyer specified his concerns related to the ability of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) steam generators to withstand a major seismic event. Specifically, Mr. Dwyer stated that the ability of the SONGS steam generators to withstand a major seismic event is seriously compromised by the degradation recently observed in the SONGS Unit 3 steam generator internal tube supports