

Louis, Missouri. For more information, contact Leon Katcharian Office of Marine Safety at (202) 314-6458 or Terry Williams, NTSB Office of Public Affairs at (202) 314-6100.

Dated: July 14, 1998.

Rhonda Underwood,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-19105 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-16 (50-338/339)]

Virginia Electric and Power Co. and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative; North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; Exemption

I

Virginia Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power) and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (collectively, the licensee) hold Materials License SNM-2507 for receipt and storage of spent fuel from the North Anna Power Station at an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) located on the North Anna Power Station site. The facility is located in Louisa County, Virginia.

II

Pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) may grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in 10 CFR Part 72 as it determines are authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest.

Section 72.82(e) of 10 CFR Part 72 requires each licensee to provide a report of preoperational test acceptance criteria and test results to the appropriate NRC Regional Office with a copy to the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at least 30 days prior to receipt of spent fuel or high-level radioactive waste for storage in an ISFSI. The purpose of the 30-day waiting period is to allow NRC an opportunity to review test results prior to initial operation of the ISFSI. If an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 72.82(e) for a 30-day waiting period was granted, the licensee still would be required to submit the necessary report. However, with an exemption the licensee could start receiving fuel at the ISFSI before the end of the 30-day period.

III

By letter dated June 12, 1998, the licensee requested an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the

requirement of 10 CFR 72.82(e) to submit the preoperational test acceptance criteria and test results report to NRC at least 30 days prior to receipt of fuel at the ISFSI. Specifically, the licensee requested to submit the report at least 3 days prior to receipt of fuel at the ISFSI. The licensee's exemption request to reduce the 30-day waiting period was based on the licensee's need to assure the availability of adequate storage space in the North Anna spent fuel pool to support a refueling outage of North Anna Power Station, Unit 1, in September 1998. To meet that schedule, spent fuel must be removed from the pool and loaded into a dry storage cask prior to the placement of new fuel into the spent fuel pool in late July 1998. Weather-related delays have hampered completion of construction and testing of the ISFSI prior to the end of June 1998. Thus, completion of construction and testing will occur less than 30 days prior to the need to load the first cask and transport it to the ISFSI.

NRC conducted numerous inspections of the North Anna ISFSI during its construction, as documented in part in NRC Inspection Report 50-338/97-09, 50-339/97-09, 72-16/97-03 and Inspection Report No. 50-338/97-11, 50-339/97-11, 72-16/97-04. NRC staff also observed selected portions of the licensee's preoperational dry run and walkthrough activities which were conducted between June 8 and 18, 1998.

By letter dated June 30, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated July 7, 1998, the licensee submitted its report of preoperational test acceptance criteria and test results. The preoperational tests conducted by the licensee included, among other things, the actual exercise of the licensee's written procedures for loading and unloading the storage casks. The licensee reviewed the results of these tests and made changes as necessary to affected procedures. During its onsite inspections in June 1998, NRC observed the licensee's validation of the acceptability of these procedures and is satisfied with the results.

IV

As discussed in the above paragraphs and based on its oversight and inspection of Virginia Power's ISFSI preoperational testing activities, NRC finds that Virginia Power has satisfactorily addressed all of the outstanding safety issues associated with cask loading, handling, and storage. The results of the NRC's activities described above confirm there is adequate assurance that the ISFSI can safely perform its intended function and that Virginia Power has the necessary

equipment and procedures in place to safely conduct activities associated with storing spent fuel at the ISFSI.

Accordingly, NRC has determined in accordance with 10 CFR 72.7 that this exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, NRC hereby grants the licensee an exemption from the 30-day waiting period required by 10 CFR 72.82(e) as requested by the licensee in its letter dated June 12, 1998.

The documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and for copying (for a fee) at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room located at the University of Virginia, Alderman Library, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, NRC has determined that granting this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (63 FR 36277).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 9th day of July, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William F. Kane,

Director,

Spent Fuel Project Office,

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 98-19087 Filed 7-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATES: Friday, July 17, 1998.

PLACE: NCR Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of July 13

Friday, July 17

9:30 a.m.

Public Meeting on Stakeholders'

Concern (Public Meeting)

(Contact: Annette Vietti-Cook, 301-415-1969)

(Location: ACRS Conference Room) (Two White Flint North, Room T2B3)

11:30 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)

*(Please Note: This item will be affirmed immediately following the conclusion of the preceding meeting.)

a: Qivera Mining Company—