

especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time may also be directed to Mr. Richard A. Sloan.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: January 5, 1999.

Richard A. Sloan,

Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-508]

Washington Public Power Supply System; Washington Nuclear Project Unit 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an order terminating Construction Permit No. CPPR-154, which authorized construction of the Washington Nuclear Project Unit 3 (WNP-3), located at Satsop, Washington. This construction permit (CP) is held by the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) and includes all remaining WNP-3 structures and the Washington Nuclear Plant Unit 5 (WNP-5) structures that were subsumed in the WNP-3 construction permit following expiration of the WNP-5 Construction Permit No. CPPR-155, which was issued on April 11, 1978, Docket No. 50-509.

Termination of the CP was requested by WPPSS by letter dated August 8, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated June 15 and November 5, 1998. In a related matter, on August 16, 1998, WPPSS filed a motion for withdrawal of its application for an operating license (OL) for WNP-3 and for termination of the proceeding on that application before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). The ASLB approved the withdrawal of the OL application and terminated the proceeding on October 16, 1996, noting that the staff would prepare an adequate EA on the CP termination and that the impacts addressed there would encompass the OL termination impacts, thus obviating

the need for a separate EA on OL termination, 44 NRC 134 (1996).

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is issuance of an order that would terminate Construction Permit No. CPPR-154 for WNP-3. WPPSS has decided to terminate the CP of the partially completed, and previously deferred, WNP-3 project. Recent changes in Washington State law (RCW 80.50.300) have made it possible to transfer ownership of WNP-3 and WNP-5 to an interlocal agency, the Satsop Redevelopment Project (SRP), formed by Grays Harbor County, the Port of Grays Harbor, and the Grays Harbor Public Utilities District. This new agency will not complete the project as a nuclear power plant; rather, SRP plans to own and operate the site and certain structures for economic development purposes.

WPPSS has entered into an agreement to transfer ownership of the 1600-acre Satsop site to the SRP, or its successor, for conversion of the site to an industrial, business, or research park. Under the agreement, 22 acres (with an option to acquire an additional 20 acres) are to be maintained under the ownership of WPPSS for a combustion turbine energy facility project.

The plant island area of the site includes the cooling towers, reactor auxiliary buildings, reactor buildings, turbine building, and the administration building for WNP-3 and WNP-5. None of these structures are scheduled for demolition. The WNP-3 reactor building and reactor auxiliary building will be secured by the installation of permanent doors and the closure of building openings. The equipment located within these buildings will be removed to the extent practical. Service systems, such as lighting, communications, fire protection, and electrical service, will remain operational. The partially complete WNP-5 reactor auxiliary building is planned to be enclosed by the completion of the grade-level floor slab. The WNP-5 reactor building will be reconfigured to serve as the site's raw water supply storage facility. The WNP-3 and WNP-5 turbine building will be cleared of the turbine generator and related systems. Service systems within the turbine building will remain operational. The disposition of the cooling towers is uncertain; current plans are to keep them as they are. The administration building, fire protection building, water treatment facility, blowdown building area, north and south tank farms, and the 230 kV

electrical supply system will be retained for future use. Warehouses, buildings, material storage yards, and parking lots that were developed to support the construction of the plant are supplied by service systems and will be retained or upgraded to support future commercial development. Any temporary buildings and facilities not identified for potential future use will be removed along with their foundations. Developed property and laydown yards will be cleared. The existing raw water well will be maintained as a source of potable water and the Ranney well field will remain as a source of process water for the Satsop site, including the Combustion Turbine Project. The barge unloading facility will remain for use by the SRP.

The staff inspected the Satsop site on October 27-28, 1998, to determine if possession of source, byproduct, or special nuclear material was controlled as authorized and if the site is being maintained in a safe and stable manner, and to assess key environmental aspects of the site. The inspectors observed selected portions of the Ranney wells, barge slip, cooling towers, and other site buildings. The inspectors also observed that erosion controls were being maintained.

The site cannot be used as a utilization facility. No nuclear fuel was ever received on site. The Satsop site is in an environmentally stable condition that poses no significant hazard to persons on site, and the plant cannot be operated in its present condition.

Need for the Proposed Action

WPPSS has terminated construction of the nuclear power plant and has disabled the facility so that it cannot be operated as a utilization facility. WPPSS intends to transfer the site to the SRP for use as an industrial, business, or research park, with the exception of 22 acres and an option to acquire an additional 20 acres for use as an energy facility operated by WPPSS. This action would terminate the construction permit.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

This is a simple administrative action of terminating the construction permit to reflect the fact that there are no longer utilization facilities under construction at the Satsop site and that the site has been adequately stabilized. This action has no environmental impact.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

There are no viable alternatives with respect to the proposed action.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action, for which there are no appropriate alternatives, does not involve the use of, and therefore will not affect, available resources.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 28 and November 3, 1998, the staff consulted with the Washington State official, Deborah J. Ross of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of 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 request for termination of Construction Permit No. CPPR-154, dated August 8, 1996, additional information submitted by letter dated June 15, 1998, WPPSS's "Satsop Power Plant Scope of Restoration" transmitted by letter dated November 5, 1998, and the NRC staff's inspection report dated November 2, 1998. These documents regarding the NRC staff's environmental assessment of the proposed action are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of January 1999.

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.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 35-26964]

Filings Under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, as Amended ("Act")

January 5, 1999.

Notice is hereby given that the following filing(s) has/have been made with the Commission pursuant to provisions of the Act and rules promulgated under the Act. All

interested persons are referred to the application(s) and/or declaration(s) for complete statements of the proposed transaction(s) summarized below. The application(s) and/or declaration(s) and any amendments is/are available for public inspection through the Commission's Office of Public Reference.

Interested persons wishing to comment or request a hearing on the application(s) and/or declaration(s) should submit their views in writing by January 26, 1999, to the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC 20549, and serve a copy on the relevant applicant(s) and/or declarant(s) at the address(es) specified below. Proof of service (by affidavit or, in case of an attorney at law, by certificate) should be filed with the request. Any request for hearing should identify specifically the issues of fact or law that are disputed. A person who so requests will be notified of any hearing, if ordered, and will receive a copy of any notice or order issued in the matter. After January 26, 1999, the application(s) and/or declaration(s), as filed or as amended, may be granted and/or permitted to become effective.

New England Electric System (70-9417)

New England Electric System ("NEES"), 25 Research Drive, Westborough, Massachusetts 01582, a registered holding company, has filed an application under sections 9(a) and 10 of the Act and rule 54 under the Act.

NEES proposes to form one or more new special purpose subsidiaries to acquire interests in office and warehouse space ("Real Estate Interests") that would be leased only to associate companies for their business purposes. All leases of Real Estate Interests will comply with rules 87, 90 and 91 under the Act.

NEES currently contemplates indirectly acquiring two facilities ("Facilities"), currently leased under long-term lease agreements ("Agreements") to two NEES subsidiaries, from John Hancock Life Insurance Company ("Owner"). The first Facility, consisting of office and warehouse space and adjacent real estate, is under lease to Massachusetts Electric Company ("MEC"), an electric utility subsidiary company of NEES. The second Facility, consisting of an office complex that serves as NEES' headquarters and adjacent real estate, is under lease to New England Power Service Company ("Service Company"), a service company subsidiary of NEES. After its acquisition from the Owner, each Facility will be leased back to MEC or the Service Company, as the case may

be, for the remainder of the term provided for in the Agreement for that Facility and under the same terms and conditions.

For the Commission by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection Requests

In compliance with Public Law 104-13, the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, SSA is providing notice of its information collection package(s) that will require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Following is an information collection package for which we are seeking an extension of the OMB approval:

Annual Registration Statement Identifying Separated Participants with Deferred Benefits, Schedule SSA-0960-0556. Schedule SSA is a form filed annually with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by pension plan administrators as part of a series of pension plan documents required by Section 6057 of the IRS Code. IRS forwards Schedule SSA to the Social Security Administration, which maintains it until a claim for social security benefits has been approved. At that time, SSA notifies the beneficiary of his/her potential eligibility for private plan benefits.

Number of Respondents: 107,174.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 17 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 30,366 hours.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be sent within 60 days from the date of this publication, directly to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following address: Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD 21235.

In addition to your comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate, we are soliciting comments on the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated