

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of May 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-13218 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8681-MLA-6; ASLBP No. 99-766-06-MLA]

International Uranium (USA) Corporation; Designation of Presiding Officer

Pursuant to delegation by the Commission dated December 29, 1972, published in the **Federal Register**, 37 FR 28710 (1972), and Sections 2.1201 and 2.1207 of Part 2 of the Commission's Regulations, a single member of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel is hereby designated to rule on petitions for leave to intervene and/or requests for hearing and, if necessary, to serve as the Presiding Officer to conduct an informal adjudicatory hearing in the following proceeding.

International Uranium (USA) Corporation (IUSA) (Request for Materials License Amendment)

The hearing, if granted, will be conducted pursuant to 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart L, of the Commission's Regulations, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings." This proceeding concerns a request for hearing submitted by Envirocare of Utah, Inc., in response to an application from the International Uranium (USA) Corporation to amend its license to allow for the receipt and processing of uranium-bearing materials from a site near St. Louis, Missouri, being managed under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. Envirocare opposes this amendment on the basis that it allegedly violates NRC regulations and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Presiding Officer in this proceeding is Administrative Judge Peter B. Bloch. Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR §§ 2.722, 2.1209, Administrative Judge Richard F. Cole has been appointed to assist the Presiding Officer in taking evidence and in preparing a suitable record for review.

All correspondence, documents and other materials shall be filed with Judge Bloch and Judge Cole in accordance with 10 CFR § 2.1203. Their addresses are:

Administrative Judge Peter B. Bloch, Presiding Officer, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dr. Richard F. Cole, Special Assistant, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Issued at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of May 1999.

G. Paul Bollwerk, III,

Acting Chief Administrative Judge, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

[FR Doc. 99-13217 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364]

Southern Nuclear Operating Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-2 and NPF-8 issued to the Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC or the licensee) for operation of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 and 2, located in Houston County, Alabama.

The proposed amendments, requested by the licensee in a letter dated March 12, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated April 24, August 20, October 20, and November 20, 1998, and two letters dated April 30, 1999, would represent a full conversion from the current Technical Specifications (CTSs) to a set of TSs based on NUREG-1431, Revision 1, "Standard Technical Specifications—Westinghouse Plants," dated April 1995. NUREG-1431 has been developed through working groups composed of both NRC staff members and industry representative and has been endorsed by the staff as part of an industry-wide initiative to standardize and improve TSs. As part of this submittal, the licensee has applied the criteria contained in the Commission's "Final Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors (Final Policy Statement)," published in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 1993 (58 FR 39132), to the current Farley TS and developed a proposed set of improved TSs for Farley using NUREG-1431 as a basis. The criteria in the final policy statement were subsequently added to 10 CFR

50.36, "Technical Specifications," in a rule change which was published in the **Federal Register** on July 19, 1995 (60 FR 36953) and became effective on August 18, 1995.

The licensee has categorized the proposed changes to the CTSs into six general groupings. These groupings are characterized as administrative changes, relocated changes, more restrictive changes, removed detailed changes, allowance to use a simulated or actual actuation signal, and less restrictive changes.

Administrative changes are editorial in nature, involve the movement of requirements within the CTS without affecting the technical content, simply reformat a requirement, or clarify the TS (such as deleting a footnote no longer applicable due to a technical change to a requirement). It also includes non-technical changes such as reformatting and rewording the remaining requirements in order to conform with the format and style of the standard technical specification (STS).

Relocated changes are those requirements and surveillances for structures, systems, components or variables that do not meet the screening criteria for inclusion in the TSs. Relocated changes are those current TS requirements which do not satisfy or fall within any of the four criteria specified in the Commission's policy statement and may thus be relocated to appropriate licensee-controlled documents. The licensee's application of the screening criteria is described in its March 12, 1998, submittal. The affected structures, systems components or variables are not initiators of analyzed events and are not assumed to mitigate accident or transients. These requirements and surveillances will be relocated from the TS to administratively controlled documents such as the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR), the TS Bases document, or plant procedures. Future changes made by the licensee to these documents will be pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59 or other appropriate control mechanisms.

More restrictive changes are those involving more stringent requirements for operation of the facility or eliminate existing flexibility. These more stringent requirements do not result in operation that will alter assumptions relative to mitigation of an accident or transient event. The more restrictive requirements will not alter the assessment of process variables and operation of structures, systems, and components described in the safety analyses. For each requirement in the current Farley TSs that is more restrictive than the