

the results of an analysis showing that as of June 30, 1999, decay heat could not heat the spent fuel cladding above 482 °C in the event all water was drained from the SFP. The staff reviewed the licensee's analysis and found the licensee's value for peak fuel cladding temperature acceptable. On the basis of a staff determination that fuel cladding will remain intact at this temperature, the staff concluded that a complete loss of water from the ZNPS SFP would not result in a release off site that exceeds the early-phase EPA PAGs.

Although a significant release of radioactive material from the spent fuel is no longer possible in the absence of water cooling, a potential exists for radiation exposure to an offsite individual in the event that shielding of the fuel is lost (a beyond-design-basis event). Water and the concrete pool structure serve as radiation shielding on the sides of the pool. However, water alone provides most of the shielding above the spent fuel. A loss of shielding above the fuel could increase the radiation levels off site because of the gamma rays streaming up out of the pool being scattered back to a receptor at the site boundary. The licensee calculated the offsite radiological impact of a postulated complete loss of SFP water and determined that the gamma radiation dose rate at the exclusion area boundary would be 0.00294 rad per hour at an outside air temperature of 21 °C. At this rate, it would take 14 days for the event to exceed the EPA early-phase PAG of 1 rem. The EPA early-phase PAG is defined as the period beginning at the projected or actual initiation of a release and extending a few days later. The PAGs were developed to respond to a mobile airborne plume that could transport and deposit radioactive material over a large area. In contrast, the radiation field formed by scatter from a drained SFP would be stationary rather than moving and would not cause transport or deposition of radioactive materials. The 14 days available for action allow sufficient time to develop and implement mitigative actions and provide confidence that additional offsite measures could be taken without planning if efforts to reestablish shielding over the fuel are delayed.

The standards and requirements that remain in effect are listed in Attachment 1 to the licensee's letter of April 13, 1999, and Attachment 2 to the licensee's letter of July 8, 1999. On the basis of this review, the staff finds that the radiological consequences of accidents possible at ZNPS are substantially lower than those at an operating plant. The upper bound of offsite dose

consequences limits the highest attainable emergency class to the alert level. In addition, because of the reduced consequences of radiological events still possible at the site, the scope of the onsite emergency preparedness organization may be reduced. Thus, the underlying purpose of the regulations will not be adversely affected by eliminating offsite emergency planning activities or reducing the scope of onsite emergency planning. Accordingly, the Commission has determined that special circumstances as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) exist.

#### IV.

The Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety and is consistent with the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Commonwealth Edison Company an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and 10 CFR 50.47(c)(2).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (64 FR 45981).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of August 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**John A. Zwolinski,**

*Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Tennessee Valley Authority

[Docket No. 50-390]

#### Notice of Partial Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted a request by the Tennessee Valley Authority (the Licensee) to withdraw the remainder of its October 23, 1996, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-90 for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, located in Rhea County, Tennessee.

The remaining portion of the application that was not approved by license amendment number 6, issued on

July 28, 1997, proposed the installation of spent fuel racks in the cask pit area of the spent fuel pool for an additional 225 storage spaces and the use of an impact shield over the fuel in the cask pit when heavy loads are moved near or across the cask pit area.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on April 2, 1997 (62 FR 15733). However, by letter dated July 22, 1999, the licensee withdrew that portion of the proposed amendment related to storage in the cask pit.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 23, 1996, Amendment to Facility Operating License Number 6 issued on July 28, 1997, and the licensee's letter dated July 22, 1999. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC and at the local public document room located at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of September 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Robert E. Martin,**

*Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Postponement of Public Workshop To Develop a Standard Review Plan for Decommissioning

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Postponement of public workshop.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the postponement of one of the public workshops the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is sponsoring to solicit input from stakeholders during the development of a Standard Review Plan (SRP) and other guidance for decommissioning nuclear facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 21, 1998, NRC announced that it was sponsoring a series of public workshops to support the staff's development of an SRP and other guidance for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. On November 18,