

area below the 354-foot elevation of the ANO-2 intake structure, such that fire detectors and an automatic fire suppression system need not be installed in the fire area.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (64 FR 52804).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

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

[FR Doc. 99-26143 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-29]

Yankee Atomic Electric Company; Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Possession Only License No. DPR-3 issued to the Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC or licensee) for the Yankee Nuclear Power Station (YNPS or plant), located in Rowe Township, Franklin County, Massachusetts.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise Technical Specification (TS) Section 6.0, Administrative Controls, by deleting TS Section 6.2.2.f, which contains limits on the working hours of plant staff. The proposed action would also authorize the incorporation of appropriate working hour restrictions into licensee-controlled documents or programs.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated March 17, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The licensee indicated in its March 17, 1999, letter that YAEC sees no benefit in and has no intention of imposing excessive overtime on its personnel. However, YAEC believes that it is much more efficient and effective to address this issue in its Administrative Procedures than to continue to be held to the potentially

confusing restrictions in the present TSs. There are no accidents or other events in the Final Safety Analysis Report that would result in an immediate threat to the public or the plant staff, or result in offsite doses in excess of the Environmental Protection Agency Protective Action Guides.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action will not have any impact on the environment as the proposed changes are administrative in nature. The licensee does not propose any disposal or relocation of fuel by this action nor any other activities that have not already been approved by the NRC.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are identical.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in environmental reviews for the YNPS.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 12, 1999, the staff consulted with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State official, Jim Muckerheide of the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency, 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 letter dated March 17, 1999, which is 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 in the library of the Greenfield Community College, 1 College Drive, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Louis L. Wheeler,

Acting Chief, Decommissioning Section, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-26145 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 70-754 and 70-1220]

G.E. Vallecitos; Notice of Public Meeting

The NRC will conduct a public meeting at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore, California 94550, on October 20, 1999, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The meeting will discuss licensed activities related to post-irradiation examination of reactor fuel at the General Electric (G.E.) Vallecitos site. The G.E. Vallecitos site has been engaged in research and development since the 1950's. The G.E. Vallecitos site includes a Radioactive Materials Laboratory where the post-irradiation examinations are done. GE also holds other NRC licenses at Vallecitos. The G.E. Vallecitos site also fabricates radioactive sources used in medicine and industry under a license issued by the State of California.

The public meeting was initiated at the request of several area public officials who expressed interest in the safety of the periodic shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel for post irradiation examination at the G.E. Vallecitos site. The meeting will include

a short presentation by representatives of G.E. Vallecitos on site history and current operations. This will be followed by presentations by NRC representatives on the licensing and inspection programs covering the various activities authorized by the NRC licenses issued to G.E. Vallecitos. This will include a discussion on the safety aspects of the periodic shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel to the G.E. Vallecitos facility. After the presentations, members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions.

For more information contact Breck Henderson, Office of Public Affairs, Region IV, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400, Arlington, Texas 76011; telephone 817-860-8128.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Marvin M. Mendonca,

Senior Project Manager, Events Assessment, Generic Communications and Non-Power Reactors Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-26141 Filed 10-6-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 1999.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of October 4

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of October 4.

Week of October 11—Tentative

Thursday, October 14

11:30 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Week of October 18—Tentative

Wednesday, October 20

9:25 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

9:30 a.m. Meeting with Organization of Agreement States (OAS) and Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPO) (Public Meeting) (Contact: Paul Lohaus, 301-415-3340)

Thursday, October 21

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Part 35—Rule on Medical Use of Byproduct Material (Public Meeting) (Contact: Cathy Haney, 301-415-6825) (SECY-99-201, *Draft Final Rule—10 CFR Part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material*, is available in the NRC Public Document Room or on NRC web site at: "www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html" Download the *zipped version* to obtain all attachments.)

Week of October 25—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of October 25.

Note: The schedule for commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: By a vote of 4-0 on September 24, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Affirmation of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co., et al. (Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2), Docket Nos. 50-334-LT And 50-412-LT Local 29's Petition to Waive Time Limits in 10 CFR 2.1305 and Supplemental Comments" (PUBLIC MEETING) be held on September 24, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: October 1, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-26286 Filed 10-5-99; 11:41 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Revision of Management Directive for Review of 10 CFR 2.206 Petitions; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: NRC Management Directive (MD) 8.11 describes the NRC review process for 10 CFR 2.206 petitions. The most recent phase of a continuing effort to improve the review process has resulted in a revision to MD 8.11, issued on July 1, 1999.

The process improvements were identified and developed on the basis of feedback from a limited stakeholder survey that was conducted in January 1999, as well as from NRC staff experience with the existing process. Many stakeholder comments and suggestions were addressed in the MD 8.11 revision. Other issues, such as the need for an appeal process, are under consideration by the staff.

The significant changes included in the revised MD 8.11 are as follows:

1. The informal public hearing process has been replaced with a simpler and more interactive staff-petitioner-licensee meeting, similar in format to staff-licensee meetings.
2. Petitioners are offered an opportunity to make a presentation to the petition review board (PRB) for the purposes of explaining the requested actions and their bases and answering staff questions.
3. Periodic PRB meetings will be held, in addition to the initial meeting, to provide additional management oversight, if appropriate.
4. The revised process requires significantly improved communications between the petition manager and the petitioner early on and throughout the process. For example, in the initial contact, the petition manager explains the process and identifies the cognizant staff groups that will be involved in considering the petition. During the periodic contacts, the petition manager is prepared to discuss the status and schedule of the review and to respond to the petitioner's questions. Prior to issuance of the acknowledgment letter and director's decision, the petition manager informs the petitioner of the imminent issuance and the substance of these documents.

5. Petitioners are added to the service lists on affected dockets.

6. Acknowledgment letters and director's decisions transmittal letters stress the actions the NRC staff has taken to address the petitioner's concerns, even when the petition is denied.

7. Up-to-date staff timeliness performance metrics are included in the 2.206 petition monthly staff reports prepared for the Executive Director for Operations.