

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.

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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.

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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