

not required for a permanently shutdown and defueled plant after the time that air cooling of the spent fuel is sufficient to maintain the integrity of the fuel cladding. As previously noted, the staff finds that sufficient time has elapsed to ensure the integrity of the ZNPS spent fuel cladding.

IV

The NRC staff has completed its review of the licensee's request to reduce financial protection limits to \$50 million for onsite property insurance and \$100 million for offsite liability insurance. On the basis of its review, the NRC staff finds that the spent fuel stored in the Zion Nuclear Power Station's SPF is no longer susceptible to rapid zirconium oxidation. The requested reductions are consistent with SECY 96-256. The licensee's proposed financial protection limits will provide sufficient insurance to recover from limiting hypothetical events, if they occur. Thus, the underlying purposes of the regulations will not be adversely affected by the reductions in insurance coverage.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), an exemption to reduce onsite property insurance to \$50 million is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Further, special circumstances are present, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). Therefore the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w).

In addition, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 140.8, an exemption to reduce primary offsite liability insurance to \$100 million, accompanied by withdrawal from the secondary insurance pool for offsite liability insurance, is authorized by law and is in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 140.11(a)(4).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (64 FR 69806).

These exemptions are effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Suzanne C. Black,

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

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel

[Docket No. 40-8027-MLA-4; ASLBP No. 99-770-09-MLA]

Sequoyah Fuels Corporation, Gore, OK Site; Decommissioning; Notice of Hearing

December 22, 1999.

This proceeding involves a proposed amendment by Sequoyah Fuels Corporation to its Source Material License No. SUB-1010, to authorize restricted decommissioning of its site near Gore, Oklahoma. The proposal under review, currently denominated as the Second Revised Site Decommissioning Plan (SRSDP), was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 26, 1999 and seeks authority to decommission the facility based on restricted release pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1403.

Notice is hereby given that, by Memorandum and Order dated December 16, 1999, LBP-99-46, the Presiding Officer has granted the request for a hearing submitted by the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma. Parties to this proceeding are the Licensee, Sequoyah Fuels Corporation; the State of Oklahoma; and the Staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

This proceeding will be conducted under the Commission's informal hearing procedures set forth in 10 CFR, Part 2, Subpart L. In response to a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, published at 64 Fed. Reg. 31023 (June 9, 1999), the State of Oklahoma submitted a request for a hearing. On July 27, 1999, Administrative Judge Charles Bechhoefer was designated Presiding Officer, to rule on petitions for leave to intervene and/or requests for a hearing and, if necessary, to serve as the Presiding Officer to conduct an informal adjudicatory proceeding. Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.722 and 2.1209, Administrative Judge Thomas D. Murphy was appointed to assist the Presiding Officer in taking evidence and in preparing a suitable record for review. 64 FR 42154 (August 3, 1999).

During the course of this proceeding, the Presiding Officer, pursuant to 10

CFR 2.1211(a), will entertain limited appearance statements from any member of the public who is not a party to the proceeding, for the purpose of stating his or her views on the issues involved in this proceeding. Although these statements are not evidence and do not become part of the decisional record, they may assist the Presiding Officer and parties in their consideration of matters at issue in this proceeding. Limited appearance statements should be made in writing. If the Presiding Officer conducts an oral argument or in-person prehearing conference, the Presiding Officer may at his discretion hear oral statements, at a time and location yet to be determined. Written statements, and requests to make oral statements, should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. A copy of such statement or request should also be served on the Presiding Officer, T3 F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, or CXB2@nrc.gov.

Documents related to this proceeding, issued prior to December 1, 1999, are available in print form for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), 2120 L St. NW, Washington, D.C. Documents issued subsequent to November 1, 1999 are available electronically through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), with access to the public through NRC's Internet Web site (Public Electronic Reading Room Link, <<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>>). The PDR and the majority of public libraries have terminals for public access to the Internet.

Rockville, Maryland, December 22, 1999.

Charles Bechhoefer,

Presiding Officer, Administrative Judge.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-237 and 50-249]

Commonwealth Edison Company; Dresden Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations regarding Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-19 and DPR-25 issued to the