NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72–2]

Virginia Electric and Power Company; Notice of Docketing of the Materials License SNM–2501 Amendment Application for the Surry Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

By letter dated November 15, 1999, Virginia Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power) submitted an application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) in accordance with 10 CFR Part 72 requesting the amendment of the Surry Power Station independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) license (SNM–2501) and the Technical Specifications for the ISFSI located in Surry County, Virginia. Virginia Power is seeking Commission approval to amend the materials license and ISFSI Technical Specifications to allow the use of the TN–32 dry storage cask to store spent fuel with a higher initial enrichment and burnup.

This application was docketed under 10 CFR Part 72; the ISFSI Docket No. is 72–2 and will remain the same for this action. The amendment of an ISFSI license is subject to the Commission's approval.

The Commission may issue either a notice of hearing or a notice of proposed action and opportunity for hearing in accordance with 10 CFR 72.46(b)(1) or, if a determination is made that the amendment does not present a genuine issue as to whether public health and safety will be significantly affected, take immediate action on the amendment in accordance with 10 CFR 72.46(b)(2) and provide notice of the action taken and an opportunity for interested persons to request a hearing on whether the action should be rescinded or modified.

For further details with respect to this application, see the application dated November 15, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of December 1999.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Susan F. Shankman,

Deputy Director, Licensing and Inspection Directorate, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 00–803 Filed 1–12–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–346]

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company; Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License NPF–3, issued to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee), for operation of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 (DBNPS), located in Ottawa County, Ohio.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action will expand the present spent fuel storage capability by 289 storage locations by allowing the use of spent fuel racks in the cask pit area adjacent to the spent fuel pool (SFP). The cask pit is accessible from the SFP through a gated opening in the wall dividing the two pool areas. The modification will be achieved by two separate activities. In support of the twelfth refueling outage (12RFO), currently scheduled for April 2000, the licensee has installed two rack modules in the cask pit, containing a total of 153 storage locations. Later, during Cycle 13, the licensee plans to install two additional rack modules in the cask pit containing 136 additional storage locations. The licensee's long-term plans include submitting a request for a complete re-racking of the SFP. The four rack modules in the cask pit, which will be used to support shuffling of spent fuel during the re-racking, will be relocated into the SFP. The design of the new high density spent fuel storage racks incorporates Boral as a neutron absorber in the cell walls to allow for more dense storage of spent fuel.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated May 21, 1999, as supplemented by submittal dated December 1, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

An increase in spent fuel storage capacity is needed to reestablish full core off-load capability. The licensee currently has insufficient storage capacity in the SFP to fully off-load the reactor core (177 fuel assemblies). The current spent fuel storage capacity in the SFP is 735 fuel assemblies and there are only 114 empty storage locations available. The licensee needs to conduct a full core off-load in order to perform reactor vessel Inservice Inspection activities during the twelfth refueling outage (12RFO) which is currently scheduled to begin in April 2000. The licensee's long-term plans include submitting a license amendment request to permit a complete re-racking of the SFP with higher density fuel storage racks.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Radioactive Waste Treatment

DBNPS uses waste treatment systems designed to collect and process gaseous, liquid, and solid waste that might contain radioactive material. These radioactive waste treatment systems were evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) dated October 1975. The proposed SFP expansion will not involve any change in the waste treatment systems described in the FES.

Gaseous Radioactive Wastes

The storage of additional spent fuel assemblies in the SFP is not expected to affect the release of radioactive gases from the pool. Gaseous fission products such as Krypton-85 and Iodine-131 are produced by the fuel in the core during reactor operation. A small percentage of these fission gases is released to the reactor coolant from the small number of fuel assemblies that are expected to develop leaks during reactor operation. During refueling operations, some of these fission products enter the pool and are subsequently released into the air. Since the frequency of refueling (and therefore the number of freshly off-loaded spent fuel assemblies stored in the SFP at any one time) will not increase, there will be no increase in the amounts of these types of fission products released to the atmosphere as a result of the increased SFP storage capacity.

The increased heat load on the pool from the storage of additional spent fuel assemblies will potentially result in an increase in the pool's evaporation rate. However, this increased evaporation rate is not expected to result in an increase in the amount of gaseous tritium released from the pool. The overall release of radioactive gases from DBNPS will remain a small fraction of the limits of 10 CFR 20.1301.

Solid Radioactive Wastes

Spent resins are generated by the processing of SFP water through the pool's purification system. The spent fuel pool cooling and cleanup system at DBNPS currently generates