

surfaces, or electrical ignition sources in the tank areas or in the flow paths to the sump. Thus, the oil would not become a fire hazard and would drain to a safe location.

By its response to Question 6.2 of Generic Letter 86-10, "Implementation of Fire Protection Requirements," the NRC staff has previously addressed the use of splash shields and the containment sump for the collection tank volume. The NRC staff concluded that, although an exemption would be required, it would be acceptable if the collected overflow of lube oil drained to the sump, and there were no sources of ignition in the area. The NRC staff finds that the exemption requested for the Palisades Plant meets the guidelines for an acceptable exemption as addressed by the NRC staff in Generic Letter 86-10.

Accordingly, the usable capacity of the existing lube oil collection tanks for the motors of primary coolant pumps P-50A, P-50B, and P-50C, in conjunction with the low risk associated with minor amounts of potential oil overflow to the containment sump, which would not lead to a fire, satisfies the underlying purpose of Section III.O of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50.

IV

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), the Commission has determined that special circumstances exist at the Palisades Plant in that application of the regulation regarding the capacity of lube oil collection containers is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of that requirement in Appendix R to 10 CFR part 50. The Commission has also determined that this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the licensee an exemption from the requirements of Section III.O of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 regarding the specified capacity of lube oil collection containers. This exemption applies to the lube oil collection containers for the motors of primary coolant pumps P-50A, P-50B, and P-50C, based on the facts set forth herein.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact upon the quality of the human environment (65 FR 16971).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of March 2000.

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. 50-443]

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation, Et Al., Seabrook Station, Unit 1; Notice of Consideration of Approval of Application Regarding Proposed Merger and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80 approving the indirect transfer of Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 for the Seabrook Station, Unit 1 (Seabrook Station), to the extent held by North Atlantic Energy Corporation (NAEC), Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P), and North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (NAESCO). The indirect transfer would be to a new Consolidated Edison, Inc., incorporated in Delaware (New CEI), resulting from the planned merger of Consolidated Edison, Inc. (CEI), the current parent of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), and Northeast Utilities (NU), the parent company of NAEC, CL&P, and NAESCO.

According to a January 13, 2000, application by Con Ed, NAESCO, and Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO) for approval of certain indirect license transfers, on October 13, 1999, NU entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger with CEI. Upon consummation of the merger, NU will become a wholly owned subsidiary of New CEI. CL&P, NAEC, and NAESCO are all subsidiaries of NU, and will remain as such following the merger, but will have a new indirect parent, New CEI. Accordingly, consummation of the merger will effect an indirect transfer of the Seabrook Station license to the extent held by the above NU subsidiaries, to New CEI. CL&P and NAEC hold ownership interests in Seabrook Station and NAESCO is exclusively authorized to operate the unit. NAESCO would remain as the managing agent for the 11 joint owners of the facility and would continue to have exclusive responsibility for the management, operation, and maintenance of the Seabrook Station. The application does not propose a change in the rights, obligations, or

interests of the other nine joint owners of the Seabrook Station. In addition, no physical changes to the Seabrook Station or operational changes are being proposed. No direct transfer of the license will result from the proposed merger.

The application also seeks approval of certain proposed indirect license transfers in connection with the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 and the Indian Point Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 facilities, which will be the subject of separate published notices.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. The Commission will approve an application for the indirect transfer of a license, if the Commission determines that the underlying transaction that will effectuate the indirect transfer will not affect the qualifications of the holder of the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene, and written comments regarding the license transfer application, are discussed below.

By April 27, 2000, any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing, and, if not the applicants, may petition for leave to intervene in a hearing proceeding on the Commission's action. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be filed in accordance with the Commission's rules of practice set forth in Subpart M, "Public Notification, Availability of Documents and Records, Hearing Requests and Procedures for Hearings on License Transfer Applications," of 10 CFR part 2. In particular, such requests and petitions must comply with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 2.1306, and should address the considerations contained in 10 CFR 2.1308(a). Untimely requests and petitions may be denied, as provided in 10 CFR 2.1308(b), unless good cause for failure to file on time is established. In addition, an untimely request or petition should address the factors that the Commission will also consider, in reviewing untimely requests or petitions, set forth in 10 CFR 2.1308(b)(1)-(2).

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be served

upon Brent L. Brandenburg, Esq., Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc., 4 Irving Place—1830, New York, NY 10003 (telephone number (212) 460-4333 and e-mail address brandenburgh@coned.com), attorney for Consolidated Edison, Inc., William J. Quinlan, Esq., Northeast Utilities, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT 06037 (telephone number (860) 665-3761 and e-mail address quinlwj@nu.com), attorney for Northeast Utilities; the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555 (e-mail address for filings regarding license transfer cases only: OGCLT@NRC.gov); and the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.1313.

The Commission will issue a notice or order granting or denying a hearing request or intervention petition, designating the issues for any hearing that will be held and designating the Presiding Officer. A notice granting a hearing will be published in the **Federal Register** and served on the parties to the hearing.

As an alternative to requests for hearing and petitions to intervene, by May 8, 2000, persons may submit written comments regarding the license transfer application, as provided for in 10 CFR 2.1305. The Commission will consider and, if appropriate, respond to these comments, but such comments will not otherwise constitute part of the decisional record. Comments should be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, and should cite the publication date and page number of the **Federal Register** notice.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated January 13, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and Accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.NRC.gov>).

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 3rd day of April 2000.

Robert M. Pulsifer,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-245, 50-336, and 50-423]

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al.; Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 1, 2, and 3; Notice of Consideration of Approval of Application Regarding Proposed Merger and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80 approving the indirect transfer of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-21, DPR-65 and NPF-49 for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, (Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3), respectively, to the extent held by Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P), Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO), Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO), and Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH). The indirect transfer would be to a new Consolidated Edison, Inc., incorporated in Delaware (New CEI), resulting from the planned merger of Consolidated Edison, Inc. (CEI), the current parent of Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), and Northeast Utilities (NU), the parent company of WMECO, CL&P, PSNH and NNECO.

According to a January 13, 2000, application by ConEd, NNECO, and North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (NAESCO) for approval of certain indirect license transfers, on October 13, 1999, NU entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger with CEI. Upon consummation of the merger, NU will become a wholly owned subsidiary of New CEI. CL&P, WMECO, NNECO, and PSNH are all subsidiaries of NU, and will remain as such following the merger, but will have a new indirect parent, New CEI. Accordingly, consummation of the merger will effect an indirect transfer of the Millstone Units 1, 2, and 3 licenses to the extent held by the above NU subsidiaries, to New CEI. CL&P and WMECO hold ownership interests in Units 1 and 2, and NNECO is exclusively authorized to operate both Units as well as Unit 3. CL&P, WMECO, and PSNH hold ownership interests in Unit 3 along with 11 other co-owners not affiliated with NU. NNECO would remain as the managing agent for the joint owners of the facilities and would continue to have exclusive responsibility for the management, operation, and maintenance of Units 1, 2, and 3. The application does not propose a change in the rights, obligations, or interests of the other 11 joint owners of Unit 3

which are not affiliates of NU. In addition, no physical changes to Units 1, 2, and 3 or operational changes are being proposed. No direct transfer of the licenses will result from the proposed merger.

The application also seeks approval of certain proposed indirect license transfers in connection with Seabrook Station and Indian Point, Units 1 and 2 facilities, which will be the subject of separate published notices.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. The Commission will approve an application for the indirect transfer of a license, if the Commission determines that the underlying transaction that will effectuate the indirect transfer will not affect the qualifications of the holder of the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene, and written comments regarding the license transfer application, are discussed below.

By April 27, 2000, any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing, and, if not the applicants, may petition for leave to intervene in a hearing proceeding on the Commission's action. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be filed in accordance with the Commission's rules of practice set forth in Subpart M, "Public Notification, Availability of Documents and Records, Hearing Requests and Procedures for Hearings on License Transfer Applications," of 10 CFR Part 2. In particular, such requests and petitions must comply with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 2.1306, and should address the considerations contained in 10 CFR 2.1308(a). Untimely requests and petitions may be denied, as provided in 10 CFR 2.1308(b), unless good cause for failure to file on time is established. In addition, an untimely request or petition should address the factors that the Commission will also consider, in reviewing untimely requests or petitions, set forth in 10 CFR 2.1308(b)(1)-(2).

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be served upon Brent L. Brandenburg, Esq., Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc., 4 Irving Place—1830, New York,