that application of the regulation is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of Section III.F of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the exemption from Section III.F of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 for Fire Zones 50–78A, 50–78B (except Room 429), 50–78V, 50–78W, 50–78EE, 50–88, 50–89, 6S–42, 6S–5M, 13N–36, and 13N–13M. As stated above, the requested exemption for Room 429 (Fire Zone 50–78B) and Room 222 (Fire Zone 50–99) is denied.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (65 FR 46750).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of August, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

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

[FR Doc. 00–22497 Filed 8–31–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–U

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–334 and 50–412]

Pennsylvania Power Company, Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company, Firstenergy Nuclear Operating Company, Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendments to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) to withdraw its January 18, 1999, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–66 and NPF–73, for the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (BVPS–1 and 2), located in Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

The proposed amendments would have: (1) Deleted license condition 2.C.(3) from the BVPS–1 operating license and deleted some references to two-loop operation from BVPS–1 Technical Specifications (TSs); (2) revised BVPS–1 and BVPS–2 TSs 2.2.1 and 3.3.2.1, associated Tables 2.2–1 and 3.3–4, and associated Bases, to use consistent format and wording between units; (3) revised BVPS–1 and BVPS–2 TSs 2.2.1 and 3.3.2.1, associated Tables 2.2–1 and 3.3–4, and associated Bases, to include revised nominal trip setpoints and allowable values; (4) deleted or revised TSs to reflect the current configuration of Unit 1 plant hardware; and (5) made miscellaneous editorial changes to BVPS–1 and BVPS–2 TSs and associated Bases to define terms, revise formatting, modify titles, and add license numbers to pages.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 1999, (64 FR 9189). However, by letter dated July 29, 2000, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated January 18, 1999, and the licensee's letter dated July 29, 2000, which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above documents are 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).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25 day of August 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Daniel S. Collins,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–22500 Filed 8–31–00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–327 and 50–328]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to withdraw its July 13, 1999, application for proposed amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR–77 and DPR–79 for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

The proposed amendments would have revised the facility technical specifications (TS) by temporarily increasing the maximum temperature limit of the plant's ultimate heat sink, which is the Tennessee River, from 84.5°F to 87.0°F.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments published in the **Federal Register** on July 20, 2000 (65 FR 45113). By letter dated August 21, 2000, TVA withdrew the proposed change on the basis that, with current conditions and projections, the Tennessee River temperature is forecast to remain below the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant's current TS temperature limit.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated July 13, 2000 and the TVA's letter dated August 21, 2000, which withdrew the application for license amendments. These documents are 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).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of August 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ronald W. Hernan,

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

[FR Doc. 00–22499 Filed 8–31–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–326]

University of California, Irvine, Nuclear Research Reactor; Environmental Assessment and Finding of no Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the issuance of a license amendment to Facility Operating License No. R–116, issued to University of California, Irvine (the licensee) for operation of their research reactor.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow renewal of the license for 20 years for the University of California, Irvine Nuclear Reactor Facility (UCINRF). The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated October 18, 1999, as amended on April 24, and June 2, 2000. The licensee submitted an

Environmental Report for license renewal.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to allow continued operation of the UCINRF in order to continue education, training, research and development using neutrons and radioisotopes for experimental purposes beyond the current term of the license.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The research reactor is on the campus of the University of California, Irvine in Rowland Hall. Rowland Hall has research and teaching laboratories, lecture halls, classrooms, offices and workshops. It is surrounded by similar facilities in the immediate area.

The UCINRF is authorized by a NRC license to operate at steady-state thermal power levels up to a maximum of 250 kilowatts (KW). The reactor can also be operated in a pulse mode with reactivity addition of up to $3 in a short period from power levels of 1 KW or less. The construction permit was issued on May 5, 1969, and the operating license was issued on November 24, 1969. The reactor has operated less than 218 effective full-power days over the approximate 30-year license period as indicted in SAR Section 1.3.2. Facility modifications have been minor as, outlined in the SAR Section 1.4. The licensee has not indicated any plans to significantly change the design or the level of usage. Since initial operation, the gaseous Argon-41 radiological release has been conservatively estimated to be less than 5.9×10^{9} becquerels per year (0.160 curies per year). Average concentrations of Argon-41 were conservatively estimated by the licensee as 2.4×10^{-9} microcuries/milliliter. This concentration is well below the 10 CFR 20 Appendix B Table 2 limit of 1.0×10^{-8} microcuries/milliliter. Since 1992, the facility has had no radiological liquid or solid radiological releases. Material has been stored as required. Releases of radioactive material have been transferred and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the licensee's byproduct license. Any necessary releases will be similarly treated. Currently, there are no plans to change any operating or radiological release practices or characteristics of the reactor during the license renewal period.

The NRC concludes that conditions are not expected to change and that the radiological effects of the continued operation will continue to be minimal. The radiological exposures for facility operations have been within regulatory limits and should continue to remain so.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite 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.

As for potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, no significant non-radiological environmental impacts and associated with the proposed action.

In addition, the environmental impact associated with operation of research reactors has been generically evaluated by the staff and is discussed in the attached generic evaluation. This evaluation concludes that no significant environmental impact is associated with the operation of research reactors licensed to operate at power levels up to and including 2 megawatts thermal. We have determined that this generic evaluation is applicable to operation of the UCINRF and that there are no special or unique features that would preclude reliance on the generic evaluation.

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

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The alternative to the proposed action for the research reactor facility is to deny the application. If the NRC denied license renewal, UCINRF operations would stop and decommissioning would be required with, likely, a small impact on the environment. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the safety analysis and evaluation for construction permit issuance and operating license issued in 1969.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

On July 25, 2000, the staff consulted with the California Department of Health Official, Steve Hsu, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State officials had no comment.

Finding of no Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC 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 October 18, 1999, as amended on April 24, and June 2, 2000. A hard copy is available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555. Publicly available records will also be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, *http://www.nrc.gov* (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of August 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ledyard B. Marsh,

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

[FR Doc. 00–22495 Filed 8–31–00; 8:45 am]

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER AND CONSERVATION PLANNING COUNCIL

Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

August 21, 2000.

AGENCY: Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council (Northwest Power Planning Council or Council).

ACTION: Proposed amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (the Northwest Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 839, *et seq.*) the Council invites comments on proposed amendments to its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (program), Council document 2000–14.

Background

In January 2000, the Council formally requested recommendations for amendments to the program under the Northwest Power Act. The proposed amendments are based on the recommendations that were submitted to the Council by fish and wildlife agencies, Indian tribes and others earlier