

10 of the Code of Federal Regulations approving the transfer of Materials License SNM-1227, held by Siemens Power Corporation ("SPC") as the owner and responsible licensee, to a new company to be named Framatome ANP Richland Division, Inc. The facility is authorized to use Special Nuclear Material (SNM) for the fabrication of nuclear fuel pellets and fuel assemblies and operates in Richland, WA.

The transfer is necessitated by the planned merger of the world-wide nuclear business of Siemens AG, a German Aktiengesellschaft ("Siemens"), including the outstanding shares of stock of SPC, the entity that currently conducts the U.S. nuclear business of Siemens, with the world-wide nuclear business of Framatome S.A., a French societe anonyme ("Framatome") and the creation of a new French company, Framatome Advanced Nuclear Power ("Framatome ANP"). Upon closing of the transaction, SPC will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Framatome Technologies Group, Inc. ("FTG"), a Delaware corporation and a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Framatome ANP, and will operate under the name Framatome ANP Richland Division, Inc. ("Framatome ANP Richland"). Before the closing date of the transaction, FTG will change its name to Framatome ANP, Inc., but FTG is used herein for convenience. The Commission is considering SPC's application and request, dated September 29, 2000, for Commission consent to the transfer of Materials License SNM-1227 to Framatome ANP Richland and the change in ownership of SPC from Siemens Corporation to FTG, effective upon the closing of the transaction, and a license amendment for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer.

According to SPC's application dated September 29, 2000, there will be no changes affecting the existing health and safety programs, qualifications of safety personnel, equipment and facilities, or any other existing license requirements. All the present obligations of SPC under the current license will pass unchanged to Framatome ANP Richland, with the exception of the form of financial assurance for decommissioning. SPC's application includes an unexecuted letter of credit and a standby third-party trust agreement, and a commitment to provide fully executed documents before the closing date.

The proposed license amendment would change the name of the licensee from Siemens Power Corporation to Framatome ANP Richland Division, Inc. for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 70.36, no license granted under the regulations in Part 70 and no right to possess or utilize special nuclear material granted by any license issued pursuant to the regulations in Part 70 shall be transferred, assigned or in any manner disposed of, either voluntarily or involuntarily, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of any license to any person unless the Commission gives its prior consent in writing. The Commission will approve an application for the transfer of a license if the Commission determines that the proposed transferee is qualified to hold the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

Before issuance of the proposed conforming license amendment, the Commission will make the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations.

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

By November 7, 2000, any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing and, if not, the applicant 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: Mr. Loren J. Maas, Manager, Regulatory Compliance, Siemens Power Corporation, 2101 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, WA 99352; 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 (30 days after publication), 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 September 29, 2000, available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, 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 13th day of October, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Philip Ting,

Chief, Fuel Cycle Licensing Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Issuance of Amendment to Materials License SNM-2501

[Docket No. 72-2]

Virginia Electric and Power Company Surry Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) has issued Amendment 12 to Materials License SNM-2501 held by Virginia

Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power) for the receipt, possession, transfer, and storage of spent fuel at the Surry Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), located in Surry County, Virginia. The amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

By application dated November 15, 1999, as supplemented on May 26, August 7, and August 14, 2000, Virginia Power requested to amend its ISFSI license to permit the use of the TN-32 dry storage cask to store spent fuel with a higher initial enrichment and burnup than currently specified in the Technical Specifications for the Surry ISFSI. This amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I, which are set forth in the license amendment.

In accordance with 10 CFR 72.46(b)(2), a determination has been made that the amendment does not present a genuine issue as to whether public health and safety will be significantly affected. Therefore, the publication of a notice of proposed action and an opportunity for hearing or a notice of hearing is not warranted. Notice is hereby given of the right of interested persons to request a hearing on whether the action should be rescinded or modified.

Also in connection with this action, the Commission prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA and FONSI were published in the **Federal Register** on September 22, 2000 (65 *FR* 57407).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of October 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

E. William Brach,

Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 00-26886 Filed 10-18-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Twenty-Eighth Water Reactor Safety Meeting

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Twenty-Eighth Water Reactor Safety Meeting (WRSM) will be held on October 23-25, 2000, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

Ashok C. Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, will open the Water Reactor Safety Meeting on Monday, October 23, 2000, with NRC Chairman Richard Meserve, the keynote speaker.

An expert panel recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Reactor Safety Study (WASH-1400) and a discussion of the lessons learned will follow Chairman Meserve. Panel members include George Apostolakis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Adolf Birkhofer, Scientific Director, Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit (GRS) mbH; Robert Budnitz, Future Resources Associates; Richard Denning, Battelle Columbus Laboratories; B. John Garrick, Chairman, NRC Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Harold Lewis, University of California Santa Barbara; and Ashok Thadani and Joseph Murphy, NRC.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology will host a luncheon featuring guest speaker Dr. John F. Ahearne, former NRC Chairman, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the release of the Reactor Safety Study and to honor Professor Norman Rasmussen and Saul Levine.

Commissioner Nils J. Diaz will be a guest speaker in the afternoon followed by an expert panel addressing the future challenges for risk-informed regulation. Panel members will include David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists; Dana Powers, Chairman, NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Brian Sheron, Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis, NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation; Margaret Federline, Deputy Director, NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. Dr. William Travers, NRC Executive Director for Operations, will serve as moderator for this panel. Technical sessions will be held for the remainder of the afternoon.

Commissioner Greta J. Dicus will be a guest speaker at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, followed by three technical sessions that will last until

noon. Elsevier Science, on behalf of the Journal of Nuclear Engineering Design, will host a luncheon to mark Professor Karl Kusmaul's role as Principal Editor. Dana Powers, Chairman, NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, will also be a guest speaker. Technical sessions will follow the luncheon and will be held for the remainder of the afternoon.

On Wednesday, October 25, 2000, at 8:30 a.m., Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield will be a guest speaker, followed by an expert panel to address the future role of nuclear power and the need for nuclear regulatory research. Panel members will include Joe Colvin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute; Theodore Marston, Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, Electric Power Research Institute; Robert Budnitz, Future Resources Associates; David Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists; and Kenneth Mossman, Director, Office of Radiation Safety, Arizona State University. Commissioner Edward McGaffigan will moderate this panel.

Two technical sessions and a rapporteur panel summarizing the discussions of the individual sessions will close out the meeting.

This meeting is international in scope and includes presentations by personnel from the NRC, U.S. Government, DOE national laboratories, private contractors, universities, reactor vendors, and a number of foreign organizations.

The preliminary agenda includes eight technical sessions, which will address risk-informed regulation; dry cask storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel; high burnup fuel; PWR sump blockage and containment coatings service level 1 safety concerns; digital instrumentation and control; thermal hydraulic and severe accident analysis for reactors and spent fuel; integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary; reactor decommissioning; and regulatory effectiveness.

Those who wish to attend are encouraged to register in advance on the WRSM website (www.wrsm.bnl.gov) or by contacting Susan Monteleone, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Department of Nuclear Energy, Building 130, Upton, NY 11973, telephone (631) 344-7235; or Sandra Nesmith (301) 415-6437, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of October 2000.