historic Smelter Bridge per HAER Level III Standard.

Based on the Draft Environmental Assessment and the implementation of the proposed historical mitigation, it has been determined that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and an environmental impact statement is not warranted.

Dated: October 26, 2000.

William A. Wilcox, Jr.,

Attorney-Advisor (General).

[FR Doc. 00–30079 Filed 11–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7010–01–P

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

United States and Mexico

Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement for the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project Sierra and Dona Ana Counties, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas

AGENCY: United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

ACTION: Notice of availability of final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in conjunction with the El Paso Water Utilities/Public Service Board has prepared a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project in Sierra and Dona Ana counties, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas as proposed by the New Mexico-Texas Water Commission. The FEIS analyzes the no action alternative and the impacts of five action alternatives from construction and operation of the project. No final decision can be made on this proposal during the 30 days following the filing of this FEIS, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR 1506.10(b)(2).

ADDRESSES: The FEIS may be inspected by appointment during normal business hours at: El Paso Water Utilities, 1154 Hawkins Boulevard, El Paso, Texas; and United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, 4171 North Mesa Street, Suite C–315, El Paso, Texas. Public libraries that have the FEIS available for review are: Branigan Memorial Library, 200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso Public Library, 501 North Oregon Street, El Paso, Texas; New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces, New Mexico; and University Library, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Douglas Echlin, Environmental Protection Specialist, Environmental Management Division, USIBWC, 4171 North Mesa Street, C–310, El Paso, Texas 79902 or call 915/832–4741. E-mail: dougechlin@ibwc.state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The New Mexico-Texas Water Commission, established in 1991 to help meet the water resource challenges of the region, proposed the El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project to secure future drinking water supplies from surface sources for the El Paso-Las Cruces region. The project includes the acquisition, conveyance, treatment, and distribution of a drinking water supply, and upgrading or constructing facilities for water conveyance, treatment, distribution, and aquifer storage and recovery. These activities comprise the following three project purposes to provide a year-round drinking water supply from the Rio Grande Project that is of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the anticipated municipal needs of Hatch, Las Cruces, northern and southern Dona Ana County, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas; to protect and maintain the sustainability of the Mesilla Bolson (ground water basin or aquifer); and to extend the longevity of the Hueco Bolson.

Project alternatives presented in this FEIS were designed to achieve these three project purposes. In addition, the project will strive to provide high quality water needed to achieve successful treatment and to meet federal drinking water standards; to deliver water efficiently and promote water conservation; and provide overall benefits to the riverine ecosystem, particularly aquatic and riparian habitats.

The project recognizes and accepts existing institutional and social constraints, including continuing to meet treaty, compact, and contract requirements for delivery of Rio Grande Project waters. The project would not adversely affect the quantity and quality of water deliveries to agricultural users; impose new responsibilities on state or federal governments; or preclude other opportunities to enhance the Rio Grande ecosystem. The need for this project is based on the region's future drinking water supply requirements. The project is necessary to avoid both potentially permanent impacts on the Mesilla and Hueco Bolsons and critical drinking water shortages in the El Paso-Las Cruces region. Population growth rates have increased sharply, increasing the demand for drinking water. It is projected that the Texas portion of the Hueco Bolson will be exhausted of all fresh water by the year 2025 because water is being pumped from the aquifer faster than it can be naturally replenished. If additional surface waters are not made available to supplement the drinking water supply, water shortages in the region will likely lead to severe health and sanitation problems.

Copies of the FEIS have been sent to agencies, organizations and individuals who participated in the scoping process and to those who have requested copies of the FEIS. A limited number of the FEIS may be obtained upon request from the contact person identified above. A Record of Decision will be prepared on this proposal after a minimum of 30 days following the filing of the FEIS. Any comments on the Final EIS must be received no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of availability by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the **Federal Register**. No action will be taken on the proposed action before 30 days following publication of the notice of availability of the EIS by EPA.

Dated: November 17, 2000.

William A. Wilcox, Jr.,

Legal Advisor.

[FR Doc. 00–30224 Filed 11–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–03–U

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel; Meeting Notice

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of October 6, 1972 (Pub. L. 94–463, Stat. 770–776) the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), on October 2, 2000, announced the establishment of the Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP). The IIEP functions as a cross-disciplinary oversight group to independently monitor and evaluate the results of the first year of implementation of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). A Charter governing the IIEP functions as a Federal Advisory Committee was filed with Congress on October 17, 2000, after consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat, General Services Administration. The IIEP will

hold its second meeting on December 11–12, 2000, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region II Office in Atlanta, Georgia. The Region II Office is located in the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 24T20, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303–8931.

The IIEP meeting participants are listed below along with their affiliation:

A. Randolph Blough—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
R. William Borchardt—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Kenneth Brockman—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Steve Floyd—Nuclear Energy Institute
David Garchow—PSEG Nuclear LLC
Richard Hill—Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Rod Krich—Commonwealth Edison Company
Robert Laurie—California Energy Commission
James Moorman, III—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Loren Plisco—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Steven Reynolds—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
A. Edward Scherer—Southern California Edison Company
James Setser—Georgia Department of Natural Resources
James Trapp—U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

A tentative agenda of the meeting is outlined as follows:

December 11, 2000 Meeting

8:00 am—Introduction/Meeting Objectives and Goals.
8:15 am—Review of Meeting Minutes and Action Items from November 1–2, 2000 Meeting.
8:30 am—Presentation of Results from Regional Workshops.
—Summary of meetings from staff.
—Summary of meeting issues from IIEP members.
—Summary of issues from site public meetings from IIEP members.
10:00 am—Presentation of Summary of ROP Issues Collected from IIEP Members.
12:00 pm—Lunch.
1:00 pm—Panel Discussion of Issues and Prioritization.
3:00 pm—Work Planning and Report Outline Development.
5:00 pm—Adjourn.

December 12, 2000 Meeting

8:00 am—Recap of Previous Day's Meeting/Meeting Objectives and Goals.
8:30 am—Presentation of Stakeholder Issues/Views.
12:00 pm—Lunch.
1:00 pm—Panel Discussion of Stakeholder Issues/Views.
3:00 pm—Agenda Planning for January Meeting.
—Schedule March Meeting dates.
4:00 pm—Public Comments/General Discussion.
5:00 pm—Adjourn.

Meetings of the IIEP are open to the members of the public. Oral or written views may be presented by the members of the public, including members of the nuclear industry. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify Mr. Loren R. Plisco (Telephone 404/562–4501, e-mail LRP@nrc.gov) or Mr. John D. Monninger (Telephone 301/415–3495, e-mail JDM@nrc.gov) five days prior to the meeting date, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras will be permitted during this meeting.

Further information regarding topics of discussion; whether the meeting has been canceled, rescheduled, or relocated; and the Panel Chairman's ruling regarding requests to present oral statements and time allotted, may be obtained by contacting Mr. Loren R. Plisco or Mr. John D. Monninger between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST.

IIEP meeting transcripts and meeting reports will be available from the Commission's Public Document Room. Transcripts will be placed on the agency's web page.

Dated: November 22, 2000.

Andrew Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–30432 Filed 11–28–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–390]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to the Facility Operating License (FOL) issued to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, licensee) for operation of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 (WBN). The facility is located at the licensee's site on the west branch of the Tennessee River approximately 50 miles northeast of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed license amendment would allow the licensee to increase the licensed thermal power level of WBN, Unit 1, from 3411 to 3459 megawatts thermal (MWt), which represents a 1.4 percent increase in the allowable thermal power. This facility was authorized for power production at 3411 MWt with issuance of the FOL on February 7, 1996.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for license amendment dated June 7, as supplemented by letters dated June 23, August 24, September 26, October 6, October 27 and November 16, 2000.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action will allow an increase in power generation at WBN to provide additional electrical power for distribution to the grid. Power uprate has been widely recognized by the industry as a safe and cost-effective method to increase generating capacity.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has previously evaluated the environmental impact of operation of WBN, as described in the ''Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2,'' NUREG–0498, December 1978 and its Supplement 1, April 1995. With regard to consequences of postulated accidents, the licensee has reanalyzed the design-basis accident doses for the exclusion area boundary, low population zone, and the control room dose to the operators and determined that there will be a small increase in these doses; however, the analysis presented in NUREG–0498 postulates these doses resulting from releases at 104.5 percent of the currently licensed power level. Thus, the increase in postulated doses due to design-basis accidents is bounded by the previous evaluation presented in NUREG–0498. No increase in the probability of these accidents is expected to occur.

With regard to normal releases, calculations have been performed that show the potential impact on the radiological effluents from the proposed 1.4 percent increase in power level of WBN. For the 1.4 percent uprating calculation, the offsite doses from normal effluent releases remain significantly below the bounding limits of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation* (10 CFR), Part 50, Appendix I. Normal annual average gaseous releases remain limited to a small fraction of 10 CFR Part 20 limits for identified mixtures. Solid and liquid waste processing systems are expected to operate within their design requirements. More frequent operation of these systems may lead to a slight increase in solid and liquid waste production.

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action will