

*Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for CCNPP2.

*Agencies and Persons Contacted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 18, 2001, the staff consulted with the Maryland State official, Mr. Richard McLean of the Department of Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

**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 exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letters dated September 14, 2000, and December 21, 2000, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will 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 20th day of February 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Donna M. Skay,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-4628 Filed 2-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. 50-286]

**Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-64, issued to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee), for operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3) located in Westchester County, New York.

**Environmental Assessment***Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would modify the Technical Specifications (TSs) by replacing them with Improved Standard Technical Specifications (ISTS). The amendment would also change requirements regarding setpoints or allowable values associated with power range flux, pressurizer pressure, overtemperature delta T, overpower delta T, low reactor coolant loop flow, high pressurizer water level, steam generator water level, containment pressure, auto stop oil pressure, high steam line differential pressure and high steam flow; it would extend the allowable time to restore an inoperable power operated relief valve to service; it would extend the frequency for the pressure isolation valve leakage testing surveillance from 18 to 24 months; it would change current TS requirements by focusing on ensuring containment integrity at individual component level rather than at a zone level; and it would add main steam check valve operability conditions.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 11, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated December 15, 1998, May 17, 1999, August 16, 2000, September 8, 2000, September 14, 2000, September 27, 2000, November 30, 2000, January 8, 2001, and January 11, 2001.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action is necessary to allow the licensee to implement the ISTS. The ISTS are based on standard Westinghouse Technical Specifications and have been implemented by several utilities. They are widely considered an improvement over current TSs.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed amendment will have no significant environmental impact. The ISTS are based on the standard Westinghouse TSs and are widely used throughout the industry.

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 off site, 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.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

*Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

*Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for IP3.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 24, 2001, the staff consulted with the New York State official, Jay Dunkelberger of the New York Department of Radiation Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

**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 December 11, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated December 15, 1998, May 17, 1999, August 16, 2000, September 8, 2000, September 14, 2000, September 27, 2000, November 30, 2000, January 8, 2001, and January 11, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will 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 16th day of February 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**George F. Wunder,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-4625 Filed 2-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-11]

### Sacramento Municipal Utility District Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the provisions of 10 CFR 72.72(d) to Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD or applicant). The requested exemption would allow SMUD to maintain a single set of spent fuel records at a records storage facility that satisfies the requirements set forth in ANSI/ASME, NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 and the standards in ANSI N45.2.9-1974, for the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station (Docket No. 72-11) in Sacramento County, California.

#### Environmental Assessment (EA)

##### *Identification of Proposed Action*

By letter dated December 13, 2000, SMUD requested an exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR 72.72(d) which states in part that, "Records of spent fuel and high level radioactive waste in storage must be kept in duplicate. The duplicate set of records must be kept at a separate location sufficiently remote from the original records that a single event would not destroy both sets of records." The applicant proposes to store a single set of spent fuel records at a records storage facility that satisfies the requirements set forth in ANSI/ASME, NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 including the standards in ANSI N45.2.9-1974.

The proposed action before the Commission is whether to grant this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7.

##### *Need for the Proposed Action*

The applicant stated that, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.140(d), the Rancho Seco Quality Manual will be used to satisfy the Quality Assurance (QA)

requirements for the ISFSI. The Quality Manual states that QA records are maintained in accordance with commitments to ANSI/ASME, NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 as well as ANSI N45.2.9-1974. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 and ANSI N45.2.9-1974 allow for the storage of QA records in a duplicate storage location sufficiently remote from the original records or in a single records storage facility subject to certain provisions designed to protect the records from fire and other adverse conditions. The applicant seeks to provide uniform and consistent recordkeeping procedures and processes for the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station and ISFSI spent fuel records. The applicant states that requiring a separate method of record storage for ISFSI records diverts resources unnecessarily.

ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 and ANSI N45.2.9-1974 provide requirements for the protection of nuclear power plant QA records against degradation. They specify design requirements for use in the construction of record storage facilities when use of a single storage facility is desired. They include specific requirements for protection against degradation mechanisms such as fire, humidity, and condensation. The requirements in ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 and ANSI N45.2.9-1974 have been endorsed by the NRC in Regulatory Guide 1.88, "Collection, Storage and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plant Quality Assurance Records," as adequate for satisfying the recordkeeping requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B. ANSI/ASME NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 and ANSI N45.2.9-1974 also satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR 72.72 by providing for adequate maintenance of records regarding the identity and history of the spent fuel in storage. Such records would be subject to and need to be protected from the same types of degradation mechanisms as nuclear power plant QA records.

##### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

Exemption from the requirement to store ISFSI records at a duplicate facility has no impact on the environment. Storage of records does not change the methods by which spent fuel will be handled and stored at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station and ISFSI and does not change the amount of any effluents, radiological or non-radiological, associated with the ISFSI.

##### *Alternative to the Proposed Action*

Since there are no environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, alternatives are not evaluated other than the no action alternative. The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny approval of the exemption and, therefore, not allow storage of ISFSI spent fuel records at a single qualified record storage facility. However, the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative would be the same.

##### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

On January 23, 2001, California State official, Steven Hsu of the Radiological Health Branch of the California Department of Health, was contacted regarding the environmental assessment for the proposed action and had no comments.

##### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR part 51. Based upon the foregoing EA, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.72(d), so that SMUD may store spent fuel records at the ISFSI in a single record storage facility which meets the requirements of ANSI/ASME, NQA-1-1983, Supplement 17S-1 and the standards in ANSI N45.2.9-1974, will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined that an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption is not necessary.

The request for exemption was docketed under 10 CFR Part 72, Docket 72-11. For further details with respect to this action, see the exemption request dated December 13, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, One White Flint North Building, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the publicly available records component of NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management 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 14th day of February 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**E. William Brach,**

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

[FR Doc. 01-4630 Filed 2-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P