

the 1991 Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Renewal of the NRC license for BWXT, and accident scenarios were evaluated in the BWXT Emergency Plan. The total effective dose equivalent (TEDE) for members of the public from the normal operations at the BWXT site was calculated to be 0.024 mrem per year.

Since the proposed amendment will not result in changes in the types or increases in the amounts of any effluents released, the dose to the worker and the public will remain the same if the amendment is approved.

#### 4.2 Water Resources and Biota

Monitoring the LTC air effluents daily, as opposed to continuously, will have no impact on water resources or biota. Effluent amounts will not be increased and there will be no change in the composition of material released.

#### 4.3 Geology and Seismology

Monitoring the LTC air effluents daily will have no impact on geology or seismology.

#### 4.4 Soils

Soils will not be impacted as a result of monitoring the LTC air effluents daily. There will be no new construction, no physical disturbance of soils, and there will not be any releases of process materials to soils as a result of this amendment application.

#### 4.5 Air Quality

The NRC staff has determined that the proposed amendment will have minimal impact on air quality. As discussed above, daily monitoring will be used to maintain radiological airborne releases within NRC limits.

#### 4.6 Demography, Cultural and Historic Resources

The NRC staff has determined that the proposed amendment will not impact demography, or cultural or historic resources. A full description of these parameters is given in the 1991 Environmental Assessment for Renewal.

#### 4.7 Impacts Due to Accident Conditions

In accordance with 10 CFR 70.61, BWXT is required to limit the risk of each credible high or intermediate consequence event through the application of engineered and/or administrative controls. Also nuclear criticality events must be limited through assurance that all processes are maintained at subcritical levels.

The impacts due to the worst-case accident conditions were evaluated for the hot cells. The worst-case scenario is

described in Chapter 5 of the BWXT Emergency Plan. The scenario involves the ignition of zircaloy grindings, resulting in a release of plutonium through the stack. This accident would result in a possible exposure to the public of less than one millionth of a maximum allowable lung burden for plutonium. Thus, off-site exposure due to the worst-case accident in the hot cells is negligible.

#### 4.8 Cumulative Impacts

The NRC has found no other activities in the areas that could result in cumulative impacts.

#### 4.9 Alternatives

The action that the NRC is considering is approval of an amendment request to Materials License SNM-42 issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70. The alternatives available to the NRC are:

1. Approve the license amendment request as submitted;
2. Approve the license amendment request with restrictions; or
3. Deny the amendment request.

Based on its review, the NRC staff has concluded that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action are insignificant. Thus, the staff considers that Alternative 1 is the appropriate alternative for selection.

#### 5.0 Agencies and Persons Contacted

The NRC contacted the Director of Radiological Health at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) August, 2002 concerning this request. There were no comments, concerns or objections from the state.

Because the proposed action is entirely within existing facilities, and does not involve new or increased effluents or accident scenarios, the NRC has concluded that there is no potential to affect endangered species or historic resources, and therefore consultation with the State Historic Preservation Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was not performed.

#### 6.0 References

- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), August 1991, "Environmental Assessment for Renewal of Special Nuclear Material License SNM-42."
- BWX Technologies, July 16, 2002, Letter from Carl Yates to Director of Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, Amendment of License SNM-42.
- BWX Technologies, November 28, 2001, "Mt. Athos Site Emergency Plan".

#### 7.0 Conclusions

Based on an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the

amendment request, the NRC has determined that the proper action is to issue a FONSI in the **Federal Register**. The NRC staff considered the environmental consequences of amending NRC Special Nuclear Materials License SNM-42 to change the frequency of monitoring the stack from continuously to daily and have determined that the approval of the request will have no significant effect on public health and safety or the environment.

#### 8.0 Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of this EA, the NRC has concluded that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action would not be significant and do not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Accordingly, the NRC is making a Finding of No Significant Impact.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," the Environmental Assessment and the documents related to this proposed action will be available electronically for public inspection 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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

The NRC contact for this licensing action is Edwin Flack, who may be contacted at (301) 415-8115 or by e-mail at [edf@nrc.gov](mailto:edf@nrc.gov) for more information about the licensing action.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of September, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

#### Daniel M. Gillen,

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

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Announcement of Public Workshop on License Renewal Continuing Guidance Development

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of public workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will hold a public workshop on implementation of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, (10 CFR) part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants" (the

license renewal rule) and Part 51 (environmental issues). The purpose of the workshop is to exchange information between applicant, the NRC staff reviewers, and other stakeholders that will lead to enhancing the license renewal application (LRA) in a manner that provides the most efficient review by the NRC staff and enhances public confidence. The workshop is intended to allow for an open exchange between the stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity to discuss lessons learned in the license renewal process. On day one, part 54 is discussed, and on the second day, part 51 is discussed.

The NRC staff will consider the comments received from the workshop participants to improve the license renewal guidance documents NUREG-1800, "Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants", NUREG 1801, "Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) report," and Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.188 "Standard Format and Content for Applications to Renew Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses." NEI will consider the comments to improve NEI 95-10, "Industry Guideline for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR part 54—The License Renewal Rule," as appropriate.

The workshop will be conducted in a roundtable format to allow for interaction between presenters and attendees. This is a Category 3 Meeting. The public is invited to participate in this meeting by providing comments and asking questions throughout the meeting.

**DATES:** October 22, 2002, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; October 23, 2002, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

**ADDRESSES:** U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland.

For further information contact: Raj Anand, Mail Stop O-12D3, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001, Telephone: 301-415-1146; Fax: 301-415-2279, e-mail: [rka@nrc.gov](mailto:rka@nrc.gov).

#### Agenda

*Tuesday, October 22, 2002*

8:30 a.m.: Registration—TWFN Auditorium

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Opening remarks by NRC
- Opening remarks by NEI
- Purpose and format of the workshop
- License renewal application format
- Industry proposal Class of 2003

applications

Tables consistent with generic aging lessons learned (GALL) report, not consistent with GALL, links, columns, number of subgroups, order of table data, table headings

Lessons learned from LRA submittals, request for additional information (RAI), acceptable GALL deviations

Staff-applicant interface

Document revisions GALL, Standard Review Plan (SRP), NEI 95-10

—Short term

—Long term

Round table discussion

Path going forward

- Interim staff guidance

—Current status

—Interim guidance use during application review

—Looking ahead

Lunch

- Format and content of time-limited aging analyses (TLAA)
- Generic guidance
  - Electrical cable programs
  - Environmentally assisted fatigue
  - Criterion 54.4(a)(2) for scoping
  - System realignment
- On-site inspections lessons learned, scoping, regional inspections, project manager-applicant interface
- Summary and follow-up actions

*Wednesday, October 23, 2002*

9 a.m. to Noon

- Opening remarks by NRC
- Opening remarks by NEI
- Purpose and format of the workshop
- Environmental reviews
- Format and content of public meetings
- Generic issues of public interest
  - Radiological
  - Endangered species
  - Alternatives
  - Severe accident mitigation alternative (SAMA) evaluation
  - Lessons learned
  - Poster session, lessons learned
- Summary and follow-up actions

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of September 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Pao-Tsin Kuo,**

*Program Director, License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-3103]

### Louisiana Energy Services Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Facility

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Opportunity to provide public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is requesting comments from members of the public concerning a series of "white papers" presented to the NRC by the Louisiana Energy Services addressing licensing issues for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility to be located in the area of Hartsville, Tennessee. The Commission will consider comments received in response to this notice in developing its position on the issues raised in these "white papers."

**DATES:** Comments are due by (30 days). Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Timothy C. Johnson, Project Manager, Special Projects and Inspection Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T-8A33, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone (301) 415-7299, e-mail [TCJ@nrc.gov](mailto:TCJ@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 17, 2001, Louisiana Energy Services (LES) notified the NRC of its intention to apply for a license to construct and operate a gas centrifuge enrichment facility in the United States. Subsequently, LES and the NRC staff have met in several public meetings to discuss pre-application issues. LES currently intends to submit its application in December 2002. By letter dated April 24, 2002, LES presented six pre-application policy issues "white papers" to the NRC. LES submitted these white papers to the Commission as LES believes that Commission direction on these issues will be essential to the conduct of an efficient regulatory review process. The white papers addressed the following subjects:

1. Analysis of need for the facility and the no-action alternative under the National Environmental Policy Act
2. Environmental justice
3. Financial qualifications
4. Antitrust review
5. Foreign ownership