

licensee in terms of the level of security needed to protect the public health and safety. The continued application of 10 CFR part 73 security requirements would cause the licensee to expend significantly more funds for security requirements than other source and byproduct facilities. Therefore, compliance with 10 CFR part 73 would result in costs significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated. Based on the above, the NRC has determined that the removal of all special nuclear material from the 10 CFR part 50 licensed site constitutes special circumstances. The security of the special nuclear material will be maintained following relocation of the spent nuclear fuel to the 10 CFR part 72 licensed ISFSI since new assurance objectives and general performance requirements will be in place to protect the spent fuel by the security requirements in 10 CFR part 72. Therefore, protection of the special nuclear material will continue following relocation of the spent nuclear fuel from the 10 CFR part 50 licensed site.

4.0 Conclusion

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), an exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest based on the continued maintenance of appropriate security requirements for the special nuclear material. Additionally, special circumstances are present based on the relocation of the spent nuclear fuel from the 10 CFR part 50 licensed site to the 10 CFR part 72 site. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Sacramento Municipal Utility District an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(p) at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, an exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest based on the maintenance of appropriate security requirements for the special nuclear material under the 10 CFR part 72 license. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Sacramento Municipal Utility District an exemption from the physical protection requirements of 10 CFR part 73 at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, "Finding of no significant impact," the Commission has previously determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the

human environment (66 FR 36017, July 10, 2001).

These exemptions are effective immediately.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of October, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

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

[FR Doc. 02-26168 Filed 10-11-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-16]

Virginia Electric and Power Company; Notice of Docketing of the Materials License SNM-2507 Amendment Application for the North Anna Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

By letter dated May 28, 2002, Virginia Electric and Power Company (Dominion) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) in accordance with 10 CFR part 72 requesting an amendment of the North Anna independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) license (SNM-2507) for the ISFSI located in Louisa County, Virginia. Dominion is seeking Commission approval to amend its license to change the ISFSI's technical specifications regarding the type of spent fuel authorized for storage. Dominion has requested to change the technical specifications to allow the storage of spent nuclear fuel with higher initial enrichment and burnup than currently specified.

This application was docketed under 10 CFR part 72; the ISFSI Docket No. is 72-16 and will remain the same for this action. The amendment of an ISFSI license is subject to the Commission's approval.

The Commission may issue either a notice of hearing or a notice of proposed action and opportunity for hearing in accordance with 10 CFR 72.46(b)(1) or, if a determination is made that the amendment does not present a genuine issue as to whether public health and safety will be significantly affected, take immediate action on the amendment in accordance with 10 CFR 72.46(b)(2) and provide notice of the action taken and an opportunity for interested persons to request a hearing on whether the action should be rescinded or modified.

For further details with respect to this application, see the application dated

May 28, 2002, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, One White Flint North Building, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD or from the publicly available records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The NRC maintains ADAMS, which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. These documents may be accessed through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-(800)-397-4209, (301)-415-4737 or by email to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of October, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

E. William Brach,

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

[FR Doc. 02-26169 Filed 10-11-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION 2002

Nuclear Safety Research Conference

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The 2002 Nuclear Safety Research Conference (NSRC), formerly known as the Water Reactor Safety Meeting, will be held October 28–30, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel at Metro Center, 775 12th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The NSRC is an international conference focused on regulatory issues, and it attracts researchers, regulators, and utility representatives from the United States and more than twenty other countries. The NSRC continues to be a leading forum in which participants interact with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and colleagues and obtain research results and insights from research programs performed in support of the mission of the NRC.

Ashok C. Thadani, Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, will open the conference on Monday, October 28, 2002, at 8:30 a.m., and NRC Executive Director for Operations, William D. Travers, will follow as the keynote speaker.

An expert panel on advanced reactors will discuss the regulatory research

needed to support the licensing of advanced reactor designs and focus on the kind of research needed to resolve technical and policy issues. Panel members will include NRC Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield, Salomon Levy (Levy & Associates), Eugene Grecheck (Dominion Energy, Inc.), Andrew Kadak (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), F. Peter Ford (NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards), and Tom Miller (U.S. Department of Energy).

Technical sessions on advanced reactors and the degradation of reactor coolant boundary materials will be held in the afternoon.

On Tuesday, October 29, 2002, NRC Chairman, Richard A. Meserve, will be the guest speaker at 8:30 a.m.; he will be followed by the first of two fuels sessions. An expert panel on formal decision methods and nuclear safety research will discuss research activities for developing the technical basis and enhancing the transparency and objectivity of decisionmaking in the regulatory environment. Panel members include James W. Johnson (NRC), Martin Virgilio (NRC), Theodore Marston (Electric Power Research Institute), Brian Sheron (NRC), and Robert Youngblood (ISL).

Technical sessions on dry cask storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuels as well as fuels research will be held in the afternoon.

On Wednesday, October 30, 2002, NRC Commissioner Greta J. Dicus will be the guest speaker at 8:30 a.m. An expert panel on risk-informed initiatives will communicate recent improvements in how NRC uses risk information in regulatory decisionmaking and how work in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research supports such uses. Panel members include George Apostolakis (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Jukka Laaksonen (Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK)), Stephen Floyd (Nuclear Energy Institute), David Lochbaum (Union of Concerned Scientists), and Luis Reyes (NRC).

Technical sessions on control of slightly contaminated materials and on probabilistic risk assessment will be held for the remainder of the day.

This conference includes presentations by personnel from the U.S. Government, national laboratories, private contractors, universities, reactor vendors, and a number of foreign organizations.

Those who wish to attend are encouraged to register in advance on the NSRC website (<http://www.bnl.gov/NSRC>) 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 2nd day of October, 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Karen M. Fitch,

Deputy Director, Program Management, Policy Development & Analysis Staff, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 02-26166 Filed 10-11-02; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

I. Background

Pursuant to Public Law 97-415, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. Public Law 97-415 revised section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to require the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, under a new provision of section 189 of the Act. This provision grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued from, September 20, 2002, through October 3, 2002. The last biweekly notice was published on October 1, 2002 (67 FR 61674).

Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the following amendment requests involve no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an

accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The basis for this proposed determination for each amendment request is shown below.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received before action is taken. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. The filing of requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By November 14, 2002, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a