

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket 72–1015]

NAC International Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to NAC International, Inc. (NAC or applicant), pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the requirement of 10 CFR 72.248(c)(6). This requirement mandates certificate holders to file an updated Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) to the NRC every 24 months from the date of issuance of a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) for a spent fuel storage cask design. NAC, located in Norcross, Georgia, is the holder of CoC Number 1015 for the NAC–UMS Universal Storage System, and is seeking NRC approval to delay filing of an updated FSAR for the NAC–UMS system. The NAC–UMS system is approved for use under the general license provisions of subpart K of 10 CFR part 72, and is designed for the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel at U.S. nuclear power reactors.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Identification of Proposed Action: By letter dated January 9, 2004, NAC requested an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the requirement of 10 CFR 72.248(c)(6). NAC is seeking Commission approval to delay the biennial filing of the updated FSAR for the NAC–UMS system to the NRC. The exemption requested is from the requirement of 10 CFR 72.248(c)(6), which states that “Updates [of the FSAR] shall be filed every 24 months from the date of issuance of the CoC.” The original CoC for the NAC–UMS system was effective on November 20, 2000. The proposed action before the Commission is whether to approve a delay in the filing of the updated FSAR, and whether to grant this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7.

Need for the Proposed Action: NAC requested the exemption to 10 CFR 72.248(c)(6) to allow sufficient time to incorporate the FSAR changes that are associated with its application to amend the CoC for the NAC–UMS system. This application and amendment was designated as Amendment No. 3 to CoC Number 1015. The Commission issued a direct final rule and a proposed rule to amend its regulations to include Amendment No. 3 in the CoC for the NAC–UMS in its list of approved spent

fuel storage casks on January 16, 2004, (69 FR 2497 and 69 FR 2528). A final effective rule is not expected to be in place prior to March 31, 2004. Therefore, NAC has requested to file an updated FSAR within 60 days after Amendment No. 3 is issued to allow the compilation of FSAR changes related to Amendment No. 3 with other FSAR changes that are allowed under 10 CFR 72.48.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The Environmental Assessment for the final rule, “Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites” (55 FR 29181 (1990)), considered the potential environmental impacts of storage casks that are used to store spent nuclear fuel under a CoC, and concluded that there would be no significant environmental impacts. The proposed action now under consideration would not affect the use of the NAC–UMS system to store spent nuclear fuel under the approved CoC, and in accordance with the regulations of 10 CFR part 72. Filing an updated FSAR to the NRC by a certificate holder is an administrative requirement and does not involve any radioactive materials or use of natural resources. Therefore, there are no radiological impacts or non-radiological impacts from a delay in filing an updated FSAR. Based upon this information, a delay in filing will have no significant impact on the environment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Since there is no environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact are not evaluated. The alternative to the proposed actions would be to deny approval of the exemption and not allow a delay in the filing of the updated FSAR. This alternative would have the same environmental impact.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: Mr. Johnny James, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Mr. William Wright, Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency, were contacted about the Environmental Assessment for the proposed action and had no comments. These two state agencies were contacted because the Amendment No. 3 of the CoC for the NAC–UMS system will be used at the McGuire Nuclear Station in North Carolina, and at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Arizona. The NRC staff has determined that a consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required because the proposed action will not affect listed species or critical habitat. The NRC staff has also determined that the proposed

action is not a type of activity having the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Therefore, no further consultation is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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 Environmental Assessment, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.248(c)(6) allowing NAC to delay updating the NAC–UMS FSAR 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 warranted.

For further details with respect to this exemption request, see NAC’s letter dated January 9, 2004. The request for exemption was docketed under 10 CFR part 72, Docket 72–1015. The NRC maintains an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (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, or 301–415–4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of February 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L. Raynard Wharton,

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

[FR Doc. 04–3892 Filed 2–23–04; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Date: Weeks of February 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2004.

Place: Commissioners’ Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

Status: Public and Closed.

Matters to be Considered:

Week of February 23, 2004

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

9 a.m.—Discussion of Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1)

Thursday, February 26, 2004

9:30 a.m.—Meeting with UK Regulators to Discuss Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1)

1:30 p.m.—Status of Davis Besse Lessons Learned Task Force Issues (Public Meeting) (Contact: Brendan Moroney, 301-415-3974)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of March 1, 2004—Tentative

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

9:30 a.m.—Meeting with Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) and NRC Staff (Public Meeting) (Contact: Angela Williamson, 301-415-5030)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

9:30 a.m.—25th Anniversary Three Mile Island (TMI) Unit 2 Accident Presentation (Public Meeting) (Location: TWFN Auditorium, 11545 Rockville Pike) (Contact: Sam Walker, 301-415-1965)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

2:45 p.m.—Discussion of Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1)

Thursday, March 4, 2004

1:30 p.m.—Briefing on Status of Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Programs, Performance, and Plans—Waste Safety (Public Meeting) (Contact: Claudia Seelig, 301-415-7243)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of March 8, 2004—Tentative

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Status of Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Programs, Performance, and Plans—Material Safety (Public Meeting) (Contact: Claudia Seelig, 301-415-7243)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

1:30 p.m.—Discussion of Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1)

Week of March 15, 2004—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of March 15, 2004.

Week of March 22, 2004—Tentative

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Status of Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Alan Levin, 301-415-6656)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

1:30 p.m.—Briefing on Status of Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Jack Davis, 301-415-7256)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

2:30 p.m.—Discussion of Security Issues (Closed—Ex. 1)

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Status of Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations (NRR) Programs, Performance, and Plans (Public Meeting) (Contact: Mike Case, 301-415-1275)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of March 29, 2004—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of March 29, 2004.

* The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 4125-1292. Contact person for more information: Dave Gamberoni, (301) 415-1651.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By a vote of 3-0 on February 18, the Commission determined pursuant to U.S.C. 552b(e) and § 9.107(a) of the Commission's rules that "Affirmation of (1) Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co. (Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station); State of Maine's petition for review of LBP-03-26, and (2) Duke Energy Corp. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1&2); NRC Staff's Petition for interlocutory review of the LB's 1/2904 Memo & Order (Ruling on BREDL Motion for Need to Know Determination & Extension of Deadline for Filing Security-Related Contentions)" be held on February 18, and on less than one week's notice to the public.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/policy-making/schedule.html>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary,

Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: February 19, 2004.

R. Michelle Schroll,

Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-4088 Filed 2-20-04; 9:53 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a revision of a guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the NRC's regulations, techniques used by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses, and data needed by the NRC staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.168, "Verification, Validation, Reviews, and Audits for Digital Computer Software Used in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants," provides guidance to licensees and applicants on methods acceptable to the NRC staff for complying with the NRC's regulations on verification, validation, reviews, and audits for digital computer software used in safety systems of nuclear power plants. This regulatory guide endorses, with certain exceptions, two standards of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers: IEEE Std 1012-1998, "IEEE Standard for Software Verification and Validation," and IEEE Std 1028-1997, "IEEE Standard for Software Reviews and Audits."

Comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Questions on the content of this guide may be directed to Mr. R. Shaffer, (301) 415-7606; e-mail RAS3@NRC.GOV.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection or downloading at the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov> under NRC Documents and in NRC's ADAMS