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Maryland 20771.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Marian Norris, Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, (202) 358-4452, fax (202) 358-4118, or mnorris@nasa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the capacity of the room. The agenda for the meeting includes the following topics:

- Science Mission Directorate Overview and Program Status
- Discussion of 2010 Science Plan
- Discussion of Subcommittees
- Discussion of Earth & Space Science Utilization of the International Space Station
- Discussion of Technology Programs

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Public attendees with U.S. citizenship must provide to NASA the following information: Full name; gender; date/place of birth; social security number, employer/affiliation information (name of institution, title/position, address, telephone, e-mail address); and the title/position of attendee at least 4 working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Marian Norris via e-mail at mnorris@nasa.gov or by telephone at (202) 358-4452. Public attendees that are Foreign Nationals from non-designated countries must provide to NASA the following information: Full name; gender; date/place of birth; citizenship; social security number, green card information (resident alien number, expiration date); visa information (number, type, expiration date); passport information (number, country of issue, expiration date); employer/affiliation information (name of institution, title/position, address, country of employer, telephone, e-mail address); and the title/position of attendee no less than 15 working days prior to the meeting by contacting Marian Norris via e-mail at mnorris@nasa.gov or by telephone at (202) 358-4452.

Public attendees will be required to sign a register and to comply with NASA security requirements, including the presentation of a valid State or Federal issued picture ID or passport, before receiving an access badge.

March 18, 2010.

P. Diane Rausch,

*Advisory Committee Management Officer,
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration.*

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-255; NRC-2010-0127]

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., Palisades Nuclear Plant; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an Exemption, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 73.5, "Specific exemptions," from the implementation date for certain new requirements of 10 CFR Part 73, "Physical protection of plants and materials," for Facility Operating License No. DPR-20, issued to Entergy Nuclear Operations, LLC (ENO) (the licensee), for operation of the Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP), located in Van Buren County, Michigan. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC prepared an environmental assessment documenting its finding. The NRC concluded that the proposed actions will have no significant environmental impact.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt Palisades Nuclear Plant from the required implementation date of March 31, 2010, for several new requirements of 10 CFR Part 73. Specifically, PNP would be granted an exemption from being in full compliance with certain new requirements contained in 10 CFR 73.55 by the March 31, 2010, deadline. ENO has proposed an alternate full compliance implementation date of August 31, 2010, approximately 5 months beyond the date required by 10 CFR Part 73. The proposed action, an extension of the schedule for completion of certain actions required by the revised 10 CFR Part 73, does not involve any physical changes to the reactor, fuel, plant structures, support structures, water, or land at the Palisades site.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated January 14, 2010, as supplemented by letter dated February 16, 2010.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to provide the licensee with additional time required for completion of significant physical modifications to comply with the new 10 CFR 73 rule requirements. While some of the work scope required by the 10 CFR 73 rule change requirements will be completed by March 31, 2010, some modifications will require additional time to complete.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its environmental assessment of the proposed exemption. The staff has concluded that the proposed action to extend the implementation deadline would not significantly affect plant safety and would not have a significant adverse effect on the probability of an accident occurring.

The proposed action would not result in an increased radiological hazard beyond those previously analyzed in the environmental assessment and findings of no significant impact made by the Commission in promulgating its revisions to 10 CFR Part 73 as discussed in a **Federal Register** notice dated March 27, 2009 (74 FR 13926). There will be no change to radioactive effluents that affect radiation exposures to plant workers and members of the public. Therefore, no changes or different types of radiological impacts are expected as a result of the proposed exemption.

The proposed action does not result in changes to land use or water use, or result in changes to the quality or quantity of non-radiological effluents. No changes to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit are needed. No effects on the aquatic or terrestrial habitat in the vicinity of the plant, or to threatened, endangered, or protected species under the Endangered Species Act, or impacts to essential fish habitat covered by the Magnuson-Stevens Act are expected. There are no impacts to the air or ambient air quality.

There are no impacts to historical and cultural resources. There would be no impact to socioeconomic resources. Therefore, no changes to or different types of non-radiological environmental impacts are expected as a result of the proposed exemption.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. In addition, in promulgating its revisions to 10 CFR Part 73, the Commission prepared an environmental assessment and published a finding of no significant impact [Part 73, Power

Reactor Security Requirements, 74 FR 13926 (March 27, 2009)].

The licensee currently maintains a security system acceptable to the NRC and will continue to provide acceptable physical protection of Palisades in lieu of the new requirements in 10 CFR Part 73. Therefore, the extension of the implementation date of the new requirements of 10 CFR Part 73 to August 31, 2010, would not have any significant environmental impacts.

The NRC staff's safety evaluation will be provided in the exemption that will be issued as part of the letter to the licensee approving the exemption to the regulation, if granted.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed actions, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed actions (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the exemption request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. If the proposed action was denied, the licensee would have to comply with the March 31, 2010, implementation deadline. The environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and the "no action" alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

The action does not involve the use of any different resources than those considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Palisades, dated February 1978, supplemented by NUREG-1437, Supplement 27, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," dated October 12, 2006.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, March 8, 2010, the NRC staff consulted with the Michigan State official, Mr. Ken Yale, 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 January 14, 2010, as supplemented by letter dated February 16, 2010. Portions of January 14, 2010, and February 16, 2010, submittals contain security related information

and, accordingly, are not available to the public. Other parts of these documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Room O-1F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland 20852. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or send an e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of March 2010.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mahesh Chawla,

Project Manager, Plant Licensing Branch LPL III-1, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 52-012 and 52-013; NRC-2010-0126]

STP Nuclear Operating Company; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses for Units 3 And 4 at the South Texas Project Site

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Galveston District, have published "NUREG-1937, Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses (COLs) at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 3 and 4" (DEIS). The site for the proposed South Texas Project Units 3 and 4 is located in Matagorda County, Texas, along the west bank of the Colorado River. The application for the COLs was submitted by letter dated October 1, 2007, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 52. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2007 (72 FR 60394). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the COL application was published in the **Federal Register** on December 5, 2007 (72 FR 68597). A notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact

statement (EIS) and to conduct the scoping process was published in the **Federal Register** on December 21, 2007 (72 FR 72774).

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that NUREG-1937 is available for public inspection. The DEIS can be accessed (1) in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland 20852, or (2) from NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The accession number for the DEIS is ML100700576. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. In addition, the Bay City Public Library, located at 1100 7th Street, Bay City, Texas, has agreed to make the DEIS available to the public.

The NRC and Corps staff will hold two public meetings to present an overview of the DEIS and to accept public comments on the document on Thursday, May 6, 2010, at the Bay City Civic Center, 201 7th Street, Bay City, Texas. The first meeting will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the first meeting, and will continue until 10 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) A presentation of the contents of the DEIS; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC and Corps staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each meeting during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC and Corps staff members. To be considered, comments must be provided during the transcribed public meeting either orally or in writing. No formal comments on the DEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions.

Persons may pre-register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting by contacting Ms. Jessie Muir by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 0491, or by e-mail at STP.COLAEIS@nrc.gov no later than April 21, 2010. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of the meeting. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of