

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–369 and 50–370; NRC–2016–0049]

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–9 and NPF–17, issued to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke, the licensee) for operation of McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (McGuire), located near Huntersville, North Carolina. The licensee requested an exemption from certain physical inventory requirements because the inventory items are no longer in service and are not readily accessible. The NRC prepared an environmental assessment (EA) documenting its finding. The NRC concluded that the proposed actions will have no significant environmental impact. Accordingly, the NRC staff is issuing its final EA and a final finding of no significant impact (FONSI) associated with the proposed exemption.

DATES: The environmental assessment referenced in this document is available on March 8, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2016–0049 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2016–0049. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301–415–3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “ADAMS Public Documents” and then select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by

email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

- *NRC's PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1–F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: G. Edward Miller, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–2481, email: Ed.Miller@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The NRC is considering issuance of an exemption from section 74.19(c) of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–9 and NPF–17, issued to Duke for operation of McGuire, located near Huntersville, North Carolina. Consistent with 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC has reviewed the requirements in 10 CFR 51.20(b) and 10 CFR 51.22(c) and determined that an EA is the appropriate form of environmental review for the requested action. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC prepared an EA documenting its finding. Based on the results of the EA, the NRC concluded that the proposed actions will have no significant environmental impact and is issuing this final FONSI.

II. Environmental Assessment

Description of the Proposed Action

The regulation in 10 CFR 74.19(c) requires, in part, “Other than licensees subject to sections 74.31, 74.33, 74.41, or 74.51, each licensee who is authorized to possess special nuclear material, at any one time and site location, in a quantity greater than 350 grams of contained uranium-235, uranium-233, or plutonium, or any combination thereof, shall conduct a physical inventory of all special nuclear material in its possession under license at intervals not to exceed 12 months.” By application dated August 17, 2015, as supplemented by letter dated October 6, 2015 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML15239B240 and ML15300A282, respectively), the licensee requested an exemption from certain recordkeeping requirements in 10 CFR 74.19(c).

Specifically, the licensee requested an exemption for conducting a physical inventory of the moveable incore detectors in their Moveable Incore Detector (MIDS) system. The moveable incore detectors are no longer in service

and are stored in a location where they are not readily accessible except during plant outages.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption to the recordkeeping requirements of 10 CFR 74.19(c) is needed to grant the licensee relief from the physical inventory requirements for the moveable incore detectors in their MIDS system, which contain special nuclear material and are required to be listed on their physical inventory. The licensee states that the moveable incore detectors have been removed from service and are stored inside shielded storage pipes (sleeves) located inside the reactor buildings concrete inner shield wall, making them physically inaccessible. The licensee also states that modifications are being made to ensure that the moveable incore detectors meet the requirements of inaccessibility. The modifications involve installing tamper-evident seals to ensure the incore detectors are not accessed and the seals will be verified every outage.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemption would not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes would be made in the types of effluents that may be released offsite. There would be no significant increase in the amount of any effluent released offsite. There would be no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there would be no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action would not have any foreseeable impacts to land, air, or water resources, including impacts to biota. In addition, there are also no known socioeconomic or environmental justice impacts associated with such proposed action. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed actions, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the exemption request would result in no

change in current environmental impacts. 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 previously considered in the “Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of William B. McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2,” dated January, 1981, and NUREG-1437, Supplement 8, “Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Regarding McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, Final Report,” dated December 2002 (ADAMS Accession No. ML030020184).

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The staff did not enter into consultation with any other Federal Agency or with the State of North Carolina regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed exemption 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. Other than the licensee’s letter dated August 17, 2015, and supplemented October 6, 2015, there are no other environmental documents associated with this review.

This document is available for public inspection as indicated above.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of February 2016.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

G. Edward Miller,

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

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 040-8964; NRC-2014-0092]

Power Resources, Inc.

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Temporary exemption; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a temporary exemption from certain NRC financial assurance requirements to Power Resources, Inc., doing business as Cameco Resources (Cameco), in

response to its annual financial assurance updates for its Smith Ranch-Highland *In-Situ* Recovery (ISR) project and the associated remote satellite facilities at Ruth and Gas Hills. Issuance of this temporary exemption will not remove the requirement for Cameco to provide adequate financial assurance through an approved mechanism but will allow the NRC staff to further evaluate whether the State of Wyoming’s separate account provision for financial assurance instruments Cameco holds is consistent with the NRC’s requirement for a standby trust agreement.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2014-0092 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2014-0092. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “ADAMS Public Documents” and then select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

- *NRC’s PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC’s PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Douglas T. Mandeville, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards; U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-0724; email: Douglas.Mandeville@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Pursuant to part 40 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR),

appendix A, Criterion 9 and NRC Materials License SUA-1601, License Condition 9.5, Cameco is required to submit to the NRC for review and approval an annual update of the financial surety to cover third-party costs for decommissioning and decontamination of the Smith Ranch-Highland ISR facility and its associated remote satellites located in Converse, Johnson, Campbell, and Fremont Counties, Wyoming. By letter dated December 4, 2014, Cameco submitted its annual financial surety update to the NRC staff for the Ruth remote satellite facility (Cameco 2014). Additionally, Cameco submitted its annual surety updates for the Smith Ranch-Highland facility and the Gas Hills remote satellite facility on July 7, 2015, and August 7, 2015 respectively (Cameco 2015a and Cameco 2015b). The NRC staff reviewed the annual financial surety update and found the values reasonable for the required reclamation activities (ADAMS Accession No. ML15348A074). Cameco maintains approved financial assurance instruments in favor of the State of Wyoming; however, it does not have a standby trust agreement (STA) in place, as required by 10 CFR part 40, appendix A, Criterion 9.

II. Description of Action

As of December 17, 2012, NRC’s uranium milling licensees, which are regulated, in part, under 10 CFR part 40, appendix A, Criterion 9, are required to have an STA in place. Criterion 9 provides that if a licensee does not use a trust as its financial assurance mechanism, then the licensee is required to establish a standby trust fund to receive funds in the event the Commission or State regulatory agency exercises its right to collect the funds provided for by surety bond or letter of credit. The purpose of an STA is to provide a separate account to hold the decommissioning funds in the event of a default.

Consistent with the provisions of 10 CFR part 40, appendix A, Criterion 9(d), Cameco has consolidated its NRC financial assurance sureties with those Cameco is required to obtain by the State of Wyoming, and the financial instrument is held by the State of Wyoming. Cameco has not established an STA, nor has it requested an exemption from the requirement to do so.

Wyoming law requires that a separate account be set up to receive forfeited decommissioning funds but does not specifically require an STA. Section 35-11-424(a) of the Code of Wyoming states that “[a]ll forfeitures collected