

UF<sub>6</sub> into the HALEU demonstration cascade modules until the NRC completed an operational readiness and management measures verification review. The NRC staff's review verified that the licensee was in compliance with the performance requirements of 10 CFR 70.61, and that the systems, structures, and components designed to support safe operation of the HALEU Demonstration Cascade were

constructed in accordance with license requirements. By letter dated June 12, 2023, the NRC authorized the American Centrifuge Operating, LLC (ACO) to introduce UF<sub>6</sub> into the HALEU demonstration cascade module to produce Category III quantities of special nuclear material (SNM) at the ACP. By letter dated September 21, 2023, the NRC authorized ACO to commence enrichment operations in the

HALEU demonstration cascade module to produce Category II quantities of SNM up to the quantity approved on June 11, 2021 at the ACP.

**II. Availability of Documents**

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons through ADAMS, as indicated.

Document description	ADAMS accession No.
Centrus Energy Corp., American Centrifuge Operating—License Amendment 13—Approval to Operate Sixteen Centrifuges to Demonstrate Production of HALEU, dated June 11, 2021 .....	ML21138A827
Enclosure 1 .....	LML21148A291
Enclosure 8 .....	ML21138A828
American Centrifuge Operating, LLC—American Centrifuge Plant, Authorization to Introduce UF <sub>6</sub> into HALEU Demonstration Cascade Module, dated June 12, 2023 .....	ML23163A168
American Centrifuge Operating, LLC—American Centrifuge Plant, Authorization to Commence Enrichment Operations in the HALEU Demonstration Cascade Module to Produce Category II Quantities of SNM, dated September 21, 2023 .....	ML23261A587
Inspection Report 2021–006: Construction and Quality Assurance, dated May 10, 2021 .....	ML21130A343
Inspection Report 2021–009: Operational Safety, Radiation Protection, Nuclear Criticality Safety, .....	
Permanent Plant Modifications, Fire Protection, .....	
Effluent Control and Environmental Protection, and Permanent Plant Modifications, dated January 27, 2022 .....	ML22026A367
Inspection Report 2023–007: Operational Safety, Radiation Protection, Nuclear Criticality Safety, Permanent Plant Modification, and Fire Protection, dated May 9, 2023 .....	ML23128A350
Cover Letter to Inspection Report 2023–405*: Material Control and Accounting Program, dated May 9, 2023 .....	ML23128A357
Cover Letter to Inspection Report 2023–406*: Physical Security, dated June 5, 2023 .....	ML23152A276
Cover Letter to Inspection Report 2023–407*: Physical Security, dated September 7, 2023 .....	ML23248A544
Cover Letter to Inspection Report 2021–408*: Material Control and Accounting Program, dated September 12, 2023 .....	ML23256A229

\* These report enclosures contain "Security Related Information" and will not be made publicly available in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1). The ADAMS accession number for the associated public cover letter is provided.

Dated: April 16, 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Samantha C. Lav,**

Chief, Fuel Facility Licensing Branch,  
Division of Fuel Management, Office of  
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket Nos. 72–0028, 50–387, and 50–388; NRC–2024–0068]

**Susquehanna Nuclear, LLC; Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2; Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for an exemption request submitted by Susquehanna Nuclear, LLC

(Susquehanna) that would permit Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) to load six new 89 multi-purpose canisters (MPC) with continuous basket shims (CBS) in the HI-STORM Flood/Wind (FW) MPC Storage System at its SSES Units 1 and 2 independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) in a storage condition where the terms, conditions, and specifications in the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1032, Amendment No. 5, are not met.

**DATES:** The EA and FONSI referenced in this document are available on April 22, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2024–0068 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 Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2024–0068. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301–415–0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@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 <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, 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, at 301–415–4737, or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov). For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the "Availability of Documents" section.

- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christian Jacobs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; telephone: 301-415-6825; email: *Christian.Jacobs@nrc.gov*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Introduction

The NRC is reviewing an exemption request from Susquehanna, dated March 19, 2024, and supplemented on March 21, 2024. Susquehanna is requesting an exemption, pursuant to section 72.7 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), in paragraphs 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.212(b)(11), and 72.214 that require Susquehanna to comply with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5. If approved, the exemption would allow Susquehanna to load six new MPC-89-CBS in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System at the SSES ISFSI in a storage condition where the terms, conditions, and specifications in the CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5, are not met.

##### II. Environmental Assessment

###### *Background*

SSES is located in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, just west of the Susquehanna River. The largest community within 10 miles (16 km) of the site is the borough of Berwick, which is approximately 5 miles (8 km) southwest of SSES, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The nearest major metropolitan areas are Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, approximately 20 mi (32 km) to the northeast, and Allentown, Pennsylvania, approximately 50 mi (80 km) to the southeast. Unit 1 began operating in 1981 and Unit 2 began operating in 1982. Susquehanna has been storing spent fuel in an ISFSI at SSES under a general license as authorized by 10 CFR part 72, subpart K, "General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites." Susquehanna currently uses the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System under CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5, for dry storage of spent nuclear fuel at the SSES ISFSI.

###### *Description of the Proposed Action*

The CoC is the NRC approved design for each dry cask storage system. The proposed action would exempt the applicant from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.212(b)(11), and 72.214 only as these requirements pertain to the use of the MPC-89-CBS in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System for the near-term planned loading of the canisters. The exemption

would allow SSES to load six new MPC-89-CBS in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System at the SSES ISFSI, despite the MPC-89-CBS in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System not being in compliance with the terms, conditions, and specifications in CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5.

The HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System CoC provides the requirements, conditions, and operating limits necessary for use of the system to store spent fuel. Holtec International (Holtec), the designer and manufacturer of the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System, developed a variant of the design with CBS for the MPC-89, known as MPC-89-CBS. Holtec originally implemented the CBS variant design under the provisions of 10 CFR 72.48, which allows licensees to make changes to cask designs without a CoC amendment under certain conditions (listed in 10 CFR 72.48(c)). After evaluating the specific changes to the cask designs, the NRC determined that Holtec erred when it implemented the CBS variant design under 10 CFR 72.48, as this was not the type of change allowed without a CoC amendment. For this reason, the NRC issued three Severity Level IV violations to Holtec. Susquehanna plans to load six new MPC-89-CBS in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System beginning in August 2024. This exemption considers the near-term planned loading of the six canisters with the CBS variant basket design.

###### *Need for the Proposed Action*

Susquehanna requested this exemption to allow SSES to load six new MPC-89-CBS in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System at the SSES ISFSI for the future loading campaign scheduled to begin in August 2024.

Approval of the exemption request would allow Susquehanna to effectively manage the margin for full core reserve in the SSES spent fuel pool to enable refueling and offloading fuel from the reactor. It would also allow Susquehanna to manage logistical considerations, such as personnel and specific equipment resources, needed to support refueling outages at SSES and across the industry.

###### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

This EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts of granting an exemption from the terms, conditions, and specifications in CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5. The exemption would allow six new MPC-89-CBS to be loaded in the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System in a near-term loading

campaign beginning in August 2024 and maintained in storage at the SSES ISFSI.

The potential environmental impacts of storing spent nuclear fuel in NRC-approved storage systems have been documented in previous assessments. On July 18, 1990 (55 FR 29181), the NRC amended 10 CFR part 72 to provide for the storage of spent fuel under a general license in cask designs approved by the NRC. The EA for the 1990 final rule analyzed the potential environmental impacts of using NRC-approved storage casks. The EA for the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System, CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5, (85 FR 28479), published in 2015, tiers off of the EA issued for the July 18, 1990, final rule. "Tiering" off earlier EAs is a standard process encouraged by the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) that entails the use of impact analyses of previous EAs to bound the impacts of a proposed action where appropriate. The Holtec HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System is designed to mitigate the effects of design basis accidents that could occur during storage. Considering the specific design requirements for the accident conditions, the design of the cask would prevent loss of containment, shielding, and criticality control. If there is no loss of containment, shielding, or criticality control, the environmental impacts would not be significant.

The exemptions requested by Susquehanna at the SSES site as they relate to CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5, for the HI-STORM FW MPC Storage System are limited to the use of the CBS variant basket design only for the near-term planned loading of six new canisters utilizing the CBS variant basket design. The staff has determined that this change in the basket would not result in either radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts that significantly differ from the environmental impacts evaluated in the environmental assessment supporting the issuance of CoC No. 1032, Amendment No. 5. If the exemption is granted, there would be no significant change in the types or amounts of any effluents released, no significant increase in individual or cumulative public or occupational radiation exposure, and no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there would be no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

###### *Alternative to the Proposed Action*

The staff considered the no-action alternative. The no-action alternative

(denial of the exemption request) would require Susquehanna to keep the spent fuel in the spent fuel pool until older design canisters can be fabricated and delivered to site. Not allowing the planned future loading campaign could affect Susquehanna's ability to manage pool capacity, reactor fuel offloading, and refueling. It could also impact Susquehanna's availability to manage personnel resources and coordinate personnel outages at SSES and across the industry. The NRC has determined that these potential impacts of the no-action alternative could be avoided by proceeding with the proposed exemption, especially given that the staff has concluded in NRC's Safety Determination Memorandum, issued with respect to the enforcement action

against Holtec regarding these violations, that fuel can be stored safely in the MPC-89-CBS.

*Agencies Consulted*

The NRC provided the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PDEP) a copy of this draft EA for review by an email dated April 10, 2024. On April 12, 2024, the PDEP provided its concurrence by email.

**III. Finding of No Significant Impact**

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR part 51, which implement NEPA. Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC finds that the proposed action of granting the exemption from the regulations in 10

CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.212(b)(11) and 72.214, which require the licensee to comply with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the CoC, would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. The exemption in this case would be limited to specific future loading of six canisters with the CBS variant design beginning in August 2024. Accordingly, the NRC has determined that a FONSI is appropriate, and an environmental impact statement is not warranted.

**IV. Availability of Documents**

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons through ADAMS, as indicated.

Document description	ADAMS accession No. or Federal Register notice
Susquehanna's request for exemption, dated March 19, 2024 .....	ML24079A070
Supplement to request for exemption, dated March 21, 2024 .....	ML24081A335
Certificate of Compliance No. 1032, Amendment 5, dated June 25, 2020 .....	ML20163A701 (Package).
Holtec International, Inc.—Notice of Violation; The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspection Report No. 07201014/2022-201, EA-23-044, dated January 30, 2024.	ML24016A190
10 CFR part 72 amendment to allow spent fuel storage in NRC-approved casks, dated July 18, 1990 .....	55 FR 29181
EA for part 72 amendment to allow spent fuel storage in NRC-approved casks, dated March 8, 1989 .....	ML051230231
Final rule for List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Holtec International HI-STORM Flood/Wind Multipurpose Canister Storage System CoC No. 1032, Amendment 5, dated May 13, 2020.	85 FR 28479
Safety Determination of a Potential Structural Failure of the Fuel Basket During Accident Conditions for the HI-STORM 100 and HI-STORM Flood/Wind Dry Cask Storage Systems, dated January 31, 2024.	ML24018A085
NRC email to PDEP requesting review of EA/FONSI for SSES Exemption, dated April 10, 2024 .....	ML24106A066
Email from PDEP regarding review of EA/FONSI for SSES Exemption, dated April 12, 2024 .....	ML24106A067

Dated: April 16, 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Bernard H. White,**

*Acting Chief, Storage and Transportation Licensing Branch, Division of Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

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**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket No. CP2024-130]

**New Postal Products**

**AGENCY:** Postal Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

**DATES:** *Comments are due:* April 23, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments electronically via the Commission's

Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202-789-6820.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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- I. Introduction
- II. Docketed Proceeding(s)

**I. Introduction**

The Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition or removal of a negotiated service agreement from the Market Dominant or the Competitive product list, or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Market Dominant or the Competitive product list.

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, the title of each Postal Service request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 (Public Representative). Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each request.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (<http://www.prc.gov>). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) in the captioned docket(s) are consistent with the policies of title 39. For request(s) that the Postal Service states

<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. RM2018-3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19-22 (Order No. 4679).