

3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

A copy of the draft supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW, (lower level), Washington, DC. Members of the public who are in the Washington, DC, area can access this document via modem on the Public Document Room Bulletin Board (NRC's Advanced Copy Document Library), NRC subsystem at FedWorld, 703-321-3339. Members of the public who are located outside of the Washington, DC, area can dial FedWorld, 1-800-303-9672, or use the FedWorld Internet address: fedworld.gov (Telnet). The document will be available on the bulletin board for 30 days after the signature date of this notice. If assistance is needed in accessing the document, please contact the FedWorld help desk at 703-487-4608. Additional assistance in locating the document is available from the NRC Public Document Room, nationally at 1-800-397-4209, or within the Washington, DC, area at 202-634-3273.

Comments and questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Brenda Jo. Shelton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, T-6 F33, Washington, DC 20555-0001, by telephone at (301) 415-7233, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Gerald F. Cranford,

*Designated Senior Official for Information Resources Management.*

[FR Doc. 97-6478 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

**[Docket No. 27-47]**

**Consideration of an Amendment to a License for Disposal of Low-Level Radioactive Waste Containing Special Nuclear Material by Chem-Nuclear systems, Incorporated and Transfer of License to South Carolina, and an Opportunity for a Hearing**

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering a request to amend License No. 12-13536-01. This license is issued to Chem-Nuclear Systems, Incorporated (CNSI) for the disposal of wastes containing special

nuclear material (SNM) in the low-level radioactive waste (LLW) disposal facility, located near Barnwell, South Carolina. NRC licenses this facility under 10 CFR Part 70. The amendment would reduce the SNM possession limit of the license, and NRC would subsequently transfer the license to the State of South Carolina. South Carolina already regulates disposal of source and byproduct material at the Barnwell facility.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Timothy E. Harris, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-6613. Fax: (301) 415-5398.

**BACKGROUND:** The LLW disposal facility located near Barnwell, South Carolina, is licensed by NRC for possession, storage, and disposal of SNM. The State of South Carolina licenses disposal of source and byproduct material at the facility. In correspondence dated December 20, 1996, CNSI requested termination of its NRC SNM license. As justification for the request, CNSI noted a reduction in SNM-bearing waste volumes and the diminished cost effectiveness of the license. CNSI requested that the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control (SCDHEC) amend its South Carolina license to allow possession of up to 350 grams of SNM. Currently, the NRC license permits possession, storage, and disposal of greater than critical mass quantities of SNM, and acknowledges that the State-regulated source and byproduct disposal activities constitute the major site activities. Possession, storage, and disposal of less than critical mass quantities can be regulated by Agreement States, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 150 (Exemptions and Continued Regulatory Authority in Agreement States and in Offshore Waters Under Section 274). Specifically, § 150.11 defines less than critical mass limits of SNM which can be regulated by Agreement States.

To implement CNSI's request, NRC plans to amend the license to reduce the SNM possession limit to those specified in § 150.11 and subsequently transfer the license to South Carolina. This amendment will result in a change in process operations. The reduction in possession limit will not significantly change the types or amounts of effluents that may be released offsite, will not increase individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, will not be a significant construction impact, and will not significantly increase the

potential for or consequences from radiological accidents. Accordingly, the amendment is categorically exempt from an environmental assessment under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11). Following issuance of this amendment, NRC will transfer the license to SCDHEC.

NRC provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a license amendment and transfer falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudication in Materials Licensing Proceedings," of NRC's rules and practice for domestic licensing proceedings in 10 CFR part 2. Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing in accordance with § 2.1205(c). A request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this Federal Register notice.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

1. The interest of the requester in the proceeding;

2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requester should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);

3. The requester's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and

4. The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

In accordance with 10 CFR § 2.1205(e), each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

1. The applicant, Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc., 140 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210, Attention: Mr. William House, and;

2. NRC staff, by delivery to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001. Attention: Docketing and Service Branch; or hand-deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Federal workdays.

For further details with respect to this action, the application for amendment request is available for inspection at NRC's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
John W.N. Hickey,  
*Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning  
Projects Branch, Division of Waste  
Management Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards.*  
[FR Doc. 97-6479 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, and  
STN 50-530]

**Arizona Public Service Company; Palo  
Verde Nuclear Generating Station,  
Units Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Environmental  
Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74, issued to Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee), for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.  
Environmental Assessment

*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would modify the licenses for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS), Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3, to authorize incorporation in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) a revised large-break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) analysis. The revised LBLOCA analysis addresses a previously unanalyzed release path through the steam generators to the atmosphere.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter March 7, 1996.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would permit the UFSAR to be revised to address a previously unanalyzed release path through the steam generators to the atmosphere for the LBLOCA. This would incorporate this release path into the licensing basis of the facility.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there are no significant environmental considerations involved with the proposed action. The incorporation in the UFSAR for PVNGS Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the previously unanalyzed release path in the LBLOCA does not affect the design or operation of the plant, does not involve any modifications to the plant or any increase in the licensed power for the

plant, does not affect plant effluents, does not increase the probability of any postulated accident and will not create a new accident, and does not create any new or unreviewed environmental impacts that were not considered in the Final Environmental Statement (FES).

The FES did not consider in its evaluation of a LBLOCA, the leakage of containment atmosphere through the steam generators and to the public. Assessment of environmental impacts of the LBLOCA accounted for radiological releases from the containment and emergency core cooling system into the environment. For the revised analysis of the LBLOCA, atmospheric releases through the steam generators could be considered part of the leakage of containment atmosphere into the environment, although the location of release is different. The FES analyzed radiological releases from the steam generators to the environment in the evaluation of the steam generator tube rupture accident. Thus, the FES evaluated releases to the environment from steam generators, but this release pathway was not included in the LBLOCA analysis. The revised LBLOCA analysis does not significantly increase the environmental impacts of postulated accidents which are discussed in Section 5.9.2 of the FES, and is of no measurable environmental impact.

*Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

*Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3," dated February 1982.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 7, 1997, the staff consulted with the Arizona State official, Mr. William Wright of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

*Finding of No Significant Impact*

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission 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 May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated March 7, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
James W. Clifford,  
*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate  
IV-2, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV,  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*  
[FR Doc. 97-6481 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket No. 50-271]

**Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power  
Corporation; Vermont Yankee Nuclear  
Power Station; Environmental  
Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption for Facility Operating License No. DPR-28, issued to Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee), for operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (the facility) located in Windham County, Vermont.

Environmental Assessment

*Identification of Proposed Actions*

The proposed exemption would grant relief in certain outdoor areas of the protected area of the facility to allow use of security lighting for outdoor access and egress and the performance of one specified task in either of two locations for compliance with Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR part 50. The exemption would include outdoor portions of the protected area for access and egress and for supply of nitrogen from either of two outdoor locations: (1) the 15,000 gallon liquid nitrogen containment inerting tank located outdoors, east of the reactor building, or (2) nitrogen storage bottles located on the west wall of the reactor building equipment air lock.