

5. Nonradiological Impacts

The staff has reevaluated the non-radiological impacts associated with the operation of the plant for the proposed action. The non-radiological impacts, primarily on water and land use, are shown in the FES to be minor. The major non-radiological impact is the concentrations in and the temperature of the water discharged from the plant to the nearby Mississippi River. The plant makeup and service water is supplied by a series of radial collector wells located in the floodplain parallel to the Mississippi, as described in Section 2.4 of the UFSAR and Section 4.2.3 of the FES. The wells are cylindrical concrete caissons sunk into the alluvial aquifer adjacent to the Mississippi River with perforated pipes projecting horizontally into the aquifer, which draw water from the aquifer and the Mississippi River. The cooling of water for power generation is provided by a cooling tower. The water discharged from the plant to the Mississippi River is the cooling tower blowdown from the cooling tower basin to maintain water quality.

As explained in Section 5.6 of the FES, the plant's discharges to the Mississippi are regulated by applicable Federal effluent limitations under Sections 401 and 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Section 401 is a certification and Section 402 is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, which are issued by the State of Mississippi. These restrictions on the plant effluent into the Mississippi River are not affected by the proposed action.

In NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," dated October 27, 1995, the use of groundwater at GGNS, from the radial collector wells for the cooling tower makeup, is discussed in Sections 4.8.1.4 and 4.8.2.2, in terms of the impact of the groundwater intake on the groundwater level and the water quality. These sections state that the intake of cooling water by GGNS does not conflict with other groundwater uses in the area and that the intake water quality will not be lower than that in the nearby Mississippi River. This is consistent with Section 2.4 of the UFSAR. Therefore, NUREG-1437 shows no adverse environmental impact by the proposed action; however, if the licensee should apply for license renewal of the GGNS full-power operating license under 10 CFR Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants," the issue of other groundwater uses in the

vicinity of the plant would be addressed.

6. Conclusion

Beyond the impacts discussed above, the proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of any accidents and will not change the licensed power level for the plant. No changes are being made to any structure, system, or component in the plant, to how the plant is operated, in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure for the plant. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no significant 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. In this case, GGNS would shut down upon expiration of the present full-power operating license. 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.

In Section 6.4 of the FES, a benefit-cost analysis was presented for the operation of GGNS. The environmental costs for the extended period of operation would be less than the cost of the replacement power or the installation of new electrical generating capacity. Moreover, with the extended period of operation, the overall financial cost per year of the plant would decrease because the initial capital outlay would be averaged over a greater number of years of operation. In summary, the benefit-cost of operating GGNS would improve with the extended plant operating lifetime.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the FES for the GGNS.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 8, 1997, the staff consulted with Mississippi State officials, Robert Goff and Robert Bell of the Division of Radiological Health, State Board of Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State officials 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 July 21, 1995, 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 Judge George W. Armstrong Library, 220 S. Commerce Street, Natchez, Mississippi 39120.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of April, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William D. Beckner,

Director, Project Directorate IV-1, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on May 1, 1997, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Thursday, May 1, 1997—11:45 a.m.
Until 1:00 p.m.

The Subcommittee will discuss proposed ACRS activities and related matters. It may also discuss the qualifications of candidates for appointment to the ACRS. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff person named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, the scheduling of sessions open to the public, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements, and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff person, Dr. John T. Larkins (telephone: 301/415-7360) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (edt). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: April 14, 1997.

Sam Duraiswamy,

Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards will hold a meeting on May 1-3, 1997, in Conference Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The date of this meeting was previously published in the **Federal**

Register on Thursday, January 23, 1997 (62 FR 3539).

Thursday, May 1, 1997

8:30 A.M.—8:45 A.M.: *Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman* (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding conduct of the meeting and comment briefly regarding items of current interest. During this session, the Committee will discuss priorities for preparation of ACRS reports.

8:45 A.M.—10:30 A.M.: *Design Basis Verification* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the proposed memoranda to the Commission associated with review criteria for design basis verification and other related NRC staff activities.

Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate, as appropriate.

10:45 A.M.—11:45 A.M.: *Electric Utility Restructuring and Deregulation* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC Staff regarding the proposed final Policy Statement on restructuring and economic deregulation of the electric utility industry.

Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate, as appropriate.

1:00 P.M.—2:00 P.M.: *Proposed Final Regulatory Guide 1.164, "Time Response Design Criteria for Safety-Related Operator Actions"* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the proposed final Regulatory Guide 1.164.

Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate, as appropriate.

2:00 P.M.—3:15 P.M.: *Regulatory Effectiveness* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with the Deputy Executive Director for Operations regarding regulatory effectiveness.

3:15 P.M.—5:15 P.M.: *Preparation of ACRS Reports* (Open). The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on matters considered during this meeting, as well as proposed reports considered during previous meetings on issues such as use of potassium iodide after a severe accident.

5:15 P.M.—7:00 P.M.: *Preparation for Meeting with the NRC Commissioners* (Open)—The Committee will discuss the following items in preparation for meeting with the NRC Commissioners on May 2, 1997:

(1) Risk-informed, performance-based regulation and risk-based regulatory

acceptance criteria for plant-specific application of safety goals;

(2) proposed regulatory approach associated with steam generator integrity;

(3) shutdown operations risk;

(4) status of ACRS review of National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Phase 2 study on digital instrumentation and control systems;

(5) Human Performance Program Plan; and

(6) ACRS report to Congress on Nuclear Safety Research and Regulatory Reform.

Friday, May 2, 1997

8:30 A.M.—8:45 A.M.: *Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman* (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding conduct of the meeting.

9:00 A.M.—10:30 A.M.: *Meeting with the NRC Commissioners—Commissioners' Conference Room, One White Flint North* (Open)—Meeting with the NRC Commissioners to discuss the following items:

(1) Risk-informed, performance-based regulation and risk-based regulatory acceptance criteria for plant-specific application of safety goals;

(2) proposed regulatory approach associated with steam generator integrity;

(3) shutdown operations risk;

(4) status of ACRS review of National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Phase 2 report on digital instrumentation and control systems;

(5) Human Performance Program Plan; and

(6) ACRS report to Congress on Nuclear Safety Research and Regulatory Reform.

11:00 A.M.—12:00 NOON: *Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) on Direction Setting Issue 22, Research* (Open)—The Committee will discuss issues raised by the Commission in the March 28, 1997 SRM related to research.

Representatives of the NRC staff will participate, as appropriate.

1:00 P.M.—2:00 P.M.: *Implementation of the Maintenance Rule* (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the results of the pilot inspections conducted by the staff to monitor the effectiveness of the licensees in implementing the Maintenance Rule.

Representatives of the nuclear industry will participate, as appropriate.

2:00 P.M.—2:30 P.M.: *Future ACRS Activities* (Open)—The Committee will discuss the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee