

By April 20, 1998, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available 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 Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene

which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by close of business on the above date. A copy of the petition

should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Jay Silberg, Esq., Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 13, 1998, 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 Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of March 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tae Kim,

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

[FR Doc. 98-7424 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-245, 50-336, 50-423]

Northwest Utilities Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that on February 2, 1998, Ms. Deborah Katz, Ms. Rosemary Bassilakis, and Mr. Paul Gunter (Petitioners) filed a Petition, pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206, on behalf of the Citizens Awareness Network and the Nuclear Information and Resources Service. The Petition requests immediate action to:

1. Revoke Northeast Utilities' (NU's, the licensee's) license to operate Millstone Units 1, 2, and 3 as the result of ongoing intimidation and harassment of its workforce by NU management.

2. Revoke NU's license to operate Millstone Units 1, 2, and 3 as the result of persistent licensee defiance to adherence of NRC regulations and

directives to create a "questioning attitude" for its workers to challenge management on nuclear safety issues without fear of harassment, intimidation, or reprisals by NU.

3. Refer the Nuclear Oversight Focus 98 List and the reported NU management attempt to destroy the list to the Department of Justice for investigation of a potential coverup.

As a basis for the Petitioners' request to revoke the Millstone licenses, the Petition states that an NU document (Nuclear Oversight's Focus 98 List dated January 11, 1998) directs the group to address areas needing improvement by focusing on the "inability to isolate cynics from the group culture" and "pockets of negativism." The Petition further states that the list demonstrates the sustained and unrelenting policy of NU's senior management to undermine a safety-conscious workplace at Millstone and that despite 2 years of increased regulatory scrutiny of the managerial mistreatment of its workers and the corporation's mismanagement of its employees' safety concerns program, a "chilled atmosphere" remains intact and entrenched.

As a basis for the Petitioners' request for a Department of Justice investigation, the Petition makes the following statement: "Since it has been reported that NU management employees attempted to destroy the list, NRC has a duty to refer this apparent deliberate attempt to evade the otherwise lawful exercise of authority by NRC to the Department of Justice for complete investigation. This alleged attempt to cover up wrong doing by NRC's licensee is a potential obstruction of justice that should be fully and fairly investigated."

The NRC staff is also concerned about the issues the Petitioners raised in their Petition. As a result, the staff issued a letter dated February 10, 1998, to the licensee requesting more information on this issue. The NRC staff will consider the licensee's response to the staff's request for additional information before the Commission allows restart of any Millstone unit. To this extent, the Petitioners' request for immediate action is partially granted. The Petitioners' specific requests to immediately revoke the operating licenses and refer the incident to the Department of Justice are denied because immediate action is not required to protect public health and safety while additional information is obtained from the licensee.

The issues in the Petition are being treated pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations and have been referred to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. As

provided by 10 CFR 2.206, appropriate action with regard to these issues will be taken in a reasonable time.

A copy of the Petition is available for 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 Learning Resources Center, Three Rivers Community-Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, and at the temporary local public document room located at the Waterford Library, ATTN: Vince Juliano, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of March 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-7276 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Review of an Information Collection: Form RI 25-37

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, May 22, 1995), this notice announces that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) intends to submit to the Office of Management and Budget a request for review of an information collection. Form RI 25-37, Evidence to Prove Dependency of a Child, is designed to collect sufficient information for the OPM to be able to determine whether the surviving child of a deceased Federal employee is eligible to receive benefits as a dependent child.

Approximately 250 forms are completed annually. We estimate it takes approximately 60 minutes to assemble the needed documentation. The annual burden is 250 hours.

Comments are particularly invited on:

- Whether this collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of functions of the Office of Personnel Management, and whether it will have practical utility;
- Whether our estimate of the public burden of this collection is accurate, and based on valid assumptions and methodology; and
- Ways in which we can minimize the burden of the collection of

information on those who are to respond, through use of the appropriate technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

For copies of this proposal, contact Jim Farron on (202) 418-3208, or E-mail to jmfarron@opm.gov.

DATES: Comments on this proposal should be received on or before May 19, 1998.

ADDRESS: Send or deliver comments to—Lorraine E. Dettman, Chief, Operations Support Division, Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 3349, Washington, DC 20415.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION CONTACT: Mary Beth Smith-Toomey, Budget & Administrative Services Division, (202) 606-0623.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 98-7207 Filed 3-19-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A and B, and placed under Schedule C in the excepted service, as required by Civil Service Rule VI, Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia H. Paige, Staffing Reinvention Office, Employment Service (202) 606-0830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR part 213 on November 24, 1997 (62 FR 62648). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A and B and established under Schedule C between October 1, 1997, and January 31, 1998, appear in the listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month, or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities as of June 30 will also be published.

Schedule A

No Schedule A authorities were established during October 1997.