

and the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-50 for the TMI-1 plant. Specifically, the proposed action would amend the license to reflect the change in the legal name of the operator from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc. and to reflect the registered trade name of GPU Energy under which the owners of TMI-1 are now conducting business. In addition, the TMI-1 TSs would be revised to reflect the new legal name of the operator of TMI-1.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 16, 1996, as supplemented September 11, 1997 and March 25, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed actions are necessary because on or about August 1, 1996, the owners of TMI-1 registered to do business under the trade name of GPU Energy. Also on or about August 1, 1996, the legal name of the operator of TMI-1 was changed from GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. As stated by the licensee,

The corporate existence of all three Owners and the operator of TMI-1 continues uninterrupted, and all legal characteristics remain the same. The name changes do not alter the state of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of the Owners of TMI-1 or the operator of TMI-1. Similarly, the name changes do not alter the function of either the Owners or the operator of TMI-1, or the way they do business. The Owner's financial responsibility for TMI-1 and their sources of funds to support the facility remain the same. These name changes do not impact the existing ownership of TMI-1 and do not alter any of the existing licensing conditions applicable to TMI-1. There is no change to GPU Nuclear, Inc.'s ability to comply with these licensing conditions or with any other obligation or responsibility under the license. Specifically, the Owners of TMI-1 remain regulated electric utilities. The funds accrued by the Owners continue to be available to fulfill all obligations related to TMI-1 as they were before the name changes.

There will be no impact on the safe operation of TMI-1 as a result of the name changes. Access to funds necessary to safely operate TMI-1 to the end of the license is unaffected. Access to decommissioning trust funds to ensure that TMI-1 can be decommissioned in accordance with NRC regulations remains as it was prior to the name changes.

In light of the foregoing, the Commission concludes that the change

will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there will be no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. 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 is administrative in nature and does not involve any physical features of the plant. Thus, 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 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 for the TMI-1 plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 16, 1998, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. Stan J. Maingi, of the Bureau of Radiation Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, 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 submittals dated December 16, 1996, September 11, 1997 and March 25, 1998, which are 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 LAW/Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (Regional Depository) Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, P.O. Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cecil O. Thomas,

Director, Project Directorate I-3, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance, Irradiator Licenses; Availability of Draft NUREG

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the availability of and requesting comment on draft NUREG-1556, Volume 6, "Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance about 10 CFR Part 36 Irradiator Licenses," dated March 1998.

NRC is using Business Process Redesign (BPR) techniques to redesign its materials licensing process, as described in NUREG-1539, "Methodology and Findings of the NRC's Materials Licensing Process Redesign." A critical element of the new process is consolidating and updating numerous guidance documents into a NUREG-series of reports. This draft NUREG report is the sixth program-specific guidance developed to support an improved materials licensing process.

It is intended for use by applicants, licensees, NRC license reviewers, and other NRC personnel. It combines and updates the guidance for applicants and licensees previously found in Draft Regulatory Guide DG-0003, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Licenses for Non-Self-Contained Irradiators," dated January 1994, and the guidance for licensing staff previously found in NMSS Policy and Guidance Directive, FC 84-23, "Standard Review Plan for Licenses for

the Use of Panoramic Dry Source-Storage Irradiators, Self-Contained Wet Source-Storage, and Panoramic Wet Source-Storage Irradiators," dated December 27, 1984. In addition, this draft report also contains pertinent information found in Technical Assistance Requests and Information Notices.

This draft report is for public comment only, and is NOT for use in preparing or reviewing applications for 10 CFR Part 36 irradiators until it is published in final form. It is being distributed for comment to encourage public participation in its development.

DATES: The comment period ends July 22, 1998. Comments received after that time will be considered if practicable.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Hand deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Federal workdays. Comments may also be submitted through the Internet by addressing electronic mail to DLM1@NRC.GOV.

Those considering public comment may request a free single copy of draft NUREG-1556, Volume 6, by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Mrs. Sally L. Merchant, Mail Stop TWFN 8F5, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Alternatively, submit requests through the Internet by addressing electronic mail to SLM2@NRC.GOV. A copy of draft NUREG-1556, Volume 6, is also available for inspection and/or copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Sally L. Merchant, Mail Stop TWFN 8-F5, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-7874; electronic mail address: SLM2@NRC.GOV.

Electronic Access

Draft NUREG-1556, Vol. 6 is also available electronically by visiting NRC's Home Page (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/nucmat.html>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of April, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Donald A. Cool,

Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-39878; File No. SR-Amex-98-18]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change by the American Stock Exchange, Inc., Relating to the Elimination of Fixed Percentage Tests for Trading Halts in Index Options

April 16, 1998.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act"), 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1), notice is hereby given that on April 10, 1998, the American Stock Exchange, Incorporated (the "Amex" or the "Exchange") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") the proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Amex proposes to amend Exchange Rule 918C to eliminate certain fixed percentage tests that presently apply to the decision to halt trading in index options as well as the decision to resume trading after such a halt. The text of the proposed rule change is available at the Office of the Secretary, Amex and at the Commission.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Amex included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Amex has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange seeks to amend Exchange Rule 918C, "Trading Halts or Suspensions," to eliminate certain fixed percentage tests that presently apply to the decision to halt trading in index options as well as the decision to resume trading after such a halt.

a. Trading halts. Currently, under Exchange Rule 918C, one of the enumerated factors that the designated Exchange officials may consider in deciding whether to halt trading in an index option is whether trading has been halted or suspended in underlying stocks whose weighted value represents "20% or more of the current index group value." The Exchange is concerned that by including a fixed percentage test among those factors that "may be considered," the present rule may imply that it would be improper for the designated Exchange officials to consider trading interruptions in underlying stocks whose weighted value represents less than 20% of the index value.

The Exchange believes such an interpretation would conflict with the purpose of Exchange Rule 918C, which grants designated Exchange officials the discretion to halt index option trading whenever they "deem such action appropriate in the interest of a fair and orderly market or to protect investors." Because Exchange Rule 918C(b) sets forth a non-exclusive list of factors that Exchange officials may consider in exercising that discretion, the Exchange contends it would be inappropriate to prohibit those officials from considering trading disruptions in underlying stocks that fall below a predetermined level. Accordingly, the proposed rule change would clarify that Exchange officials, in evaluating whether to halt trading in index options, are not limited to situations in which 20% of the underlying stocks have halted, but rather may consider "the extent to which" trading is not occurring in the underlying stocks.

In addition, the proposed rule change would provide Exchange officials with the flexibility to consider not only whether trading in underlying stocks has been "halted or suspended," but also whether such trading is "not occurring." The term "halted or suspended" indicates that Exchange authorities have taken formal action to discontinue trading in a stock. However, in deciding whether to continue trading a derivative instrument like an index