

Palisades Plant, located in Van Buren County, Michigan. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt NMC from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.68, "Criticality Accident Requirements," Subsection (b)(1) during the handling and storage of spent nuclear fuel in a 10 CFR part 72 licensed spent fuel storage container that is in the Palisades' spent fuel pool. The proposed action is in accordance with NMC's application of June 21, as supplemented August 25, 2005.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Under 10 CFR 50.68(b)(1), the Commission sets forth the following requirement that must be met, in lieu of a monitoring system capable of detecting criticality events:

Plant procedures shall prohibit the handling and storage at any one time of more fuel assemblies than have been determined to be safely subcritical under the most adverse moderation conditions feasible by unborated water.

Section 50.12(a) allows licensees to apply for an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50 if the regulation is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule and other conditions are met. NMC stated in its August 25, 2005, letter that applying the 10 CFR 50.68(b)(1) criticality prevention standards to dry shielded canister loading operations, conducted in connection with a 10 CFR part 72 license would result in undue hardship or other costs that are significantly in excess of those contemplated when the regulation was adopted, or that are significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that if the exemption described above is not granted, it would result in an undue hardship. The details of the NRC staff's safety evaluation will be provided in the exemption that will be issued as part of the letter to the licensee approving the exemption to the regulation.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released offsite. There is no significant increase in the amount of any effluent release off site. There is no

significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). 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

The action does not involve the use of any different resources than those previously considered in the Final Addendum to the Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of the Palisades Nuclear Plant dated February 1978.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On September 30, 2005, the staff consulted with the Michigan State official, Mary Ann Elzerman, of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see NMC's letter of June 21, as supplemented August 25, 2005. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and

Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or send an e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of September 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

L. Raghavan,

Chief, Section 1, Project Directorate III,
Division of Licensing Project Management,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 05-19921 Filed 10-3-05; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Updated notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI) on October 25 and 26, 2005. A sample of agenda items to be discussed during the public sessions includes: (1) Discussion of the Energy policy Act of 2005, which provides for NRC regulation of accelerator-produced radioactive material and discrete sources of Ra-226; (2) Status of Specialty Board applications for NRC recognition; (3) Electronic signature in written directives; (4) Revision of NRC Form 313A; (5) RIS on dose control and assessment; (6) Review of the medical events definition commission paper. To review the agenda, see <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acmui/agenda/> or contact, via e-mail mss@nrc.gov.

Purpose: Discuss issues related to 10 CFR 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material.

Date and Time for Closed Session Meeting: October 25, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. This session will be closed so that NRC staff can brief the ACMUI on discussing information relating solely to internal personnel rules.

Dates and Times for Public Meetings: October 25, 2005, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and October 26, 2005, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address for Public Meetings: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Two White Flint North Building, Room

T2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mohammad S. Saba, telephone (301) 415-7608; e-mail mss@nrc.gov of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Conduct of the Meeting

Leon S. Malmud, M.D., will chair the meeting. Dr. Malmud will conduct the meeting in a manner that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. The following procedures apply to public participation in the meeting:

1. Persons who wish to provide a written statement should submit a reproducible copy to Mohammad S. Saba, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T8F03, Washington, DC 20555. Alternatively, an e-mail can be submitted to mss@nrc.gov. Submittals must be postmarked or emailed by October 3, 2005 and must pertain to the topics on the agenda for the meeting.

2. Questions from members of the public will be permitted during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairman.

3. The transcript and written comments will be available for inspection on NRC's Web site (www.nrc.gov) and at the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738, telephone (800) 397-4209, on or about January 26, 2006. This meeting will be held in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (primarily Section 161a); the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App); and the Commission's regulations in Title 10, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 7.

4. Attendees are requested to notify Mohammad S. Saba at (301) 415-7608 of their planned attendance if special services, such as for the hearing impaired, are necessary.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of September, 2005.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-19791 Filed 10-3-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

DATE: Weeks of October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, November 7, 2005.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of October 3, 2005

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of October 3, 2005.

Week of October 10, 2005—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of October 10, 2005.

Week of October 17, 2005—Tentative

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on
Decommissioning Activities and
Status (Public Meeting)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of October 24, 2005—Tentative

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

1:30 p.m. Discussion of Security Issues
(Closed-Ex. 1)

Thursday, October 27, 2005

10 a.m. Discussion of Security Issues
(Closed-Ex. 1)

Week of October 31, 2005—Tentative

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

9:30 a.m.—Briefing on Implementation
of Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task
Force (DBLLTF) Recommendations
(Public Meeting)

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—<http://www.nrc.gov>.

Week of November 7, 2005—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of November 7, 2005.

The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Michelle Schroll, (301) 415-1662.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/policy-making/schedule.html>.

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The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g. braille, large print), please notify the NRC's Disability Program Coordinator, August Spector, at 301-415-7080, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by e-mail at

aks@nrc.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers, if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: September 29, 2005.

Debra L. McCain,

Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-19920 Filed 9-30-05; 9:58 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of Draft Report for Comment: "Estimating Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) Frequencies Through the Elicitation Process," NUREG-1829

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

DATES: Written comments must be provided by November 30, 2005.

Background: In support of an effort to develop a risk-informed revision of the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) requirements for commercial nuclear power plants, estimates of loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) frequencies have been developed which will enable redefinition of the design-basis break size for these requirements. These LOCA frequency estimates have been developed using an expert elicitation process by consolidating service history data and insights from probabilistic fracture mechanics (PFM) studies with knowledge of plant design, operation, and material performance. This expert elicitation to develop LOCA frequency estimates is described in draft NUREG-1829, "Estimating Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) Frequencies Through the Elicitation Process" (June 2005).

The ECCS requirements in the United States are contained in 10 CFR 50.46, Appendix K to Part 50, and General Design Criterion (GDC) 35. Specifically, ECCS design, reliability, and operating requirements exist to ensure that the system can successfully mitigate postulated LOCAs. Consideration of an