

• *Mail to:* Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost, RE: Sacramento Peak Observatory, National Science Foundation, Suite 1045, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information regarding the EIS process or Section 106 consultation, please contact: Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost, National Science Foundation, Division of Astronomical Sciences, Suite 1045, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230; telephone: (703) 292-4907; email: epenteco@nsf.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Sacramento Peak Observatory is located in Sunspot, New Mexico, within the Lincoln National Forest in the Sacramento Mountains. Established by the U.S. Air Force via a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in 1950, the facility was transferred to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1976. NSF and the U.S. Forest Service executed a land use agreement (signed in 1980) to formalize this transition and the continued use of the land for the observatory. The primary research facility still in operation at the Sacramento Peak site is the Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope (DST), currently managed by the National Solar Observatory (NSO). The DST is a high-spatial resolution optical/infrared solar telescope. In addition to its own operations, the Sacramento Peak Observatory supplies water for the nearby Apache Point Observatory (APO).

The NSF Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Division of Astronomical Sciences, through a series of academic community-based reviews, has identified the need to divest several facilities from its portfolio in order to deliver the best performance on the emerging and key science technology of the present decade and beyond. In 2012, NSF's Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST's) portfolio review committee, under the category of solar facilities stated that, "AST and NSO should plan for the continued use of the Dunn Solar Telescope (DST) as a world-class scientific observatory, supporting the solar physics community, to within two years of the Advanced Technology Solar Telescope (ATST) [now the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope, DKIST] first light." In 2016, in response to this recommendation, NSF completed a feasibility study to inform and define options for the site's future disposition that would involve significantly decreasing or eliminating NSF funding of the Sacramento Peak Observatory. Alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS will be refined through public input,

with preliminary proposed alternatives that include the following:

- Continued NSF investment for science-focused operations (No-Action Alternative)
- Transition to full operations with interested parties for solar astronomy research
- Transition to partial operations with interested parties, and decommissioning or mothballing of facilities not proposed to be used
- Mothballing of facilities limited to basic maintenance
- Deconstruction and site restoration

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including identification of viable alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EIS. At present, NSF has identified the following preliminary resource areas for analysis of potential impacts: Air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geological resources, solid waste generation, health and safety, socioeconomic, traffic, and groundwater resources. NSF will consult under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act in coordination with this EIS process, as appropriate. Federal, state, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by NSF's decision on this proposal are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request to participate as a cooperating agency.

Proposal Information: Information will be posted, throughout the EIS process, at www.nsf.gov/ast.

Scoping Meeting: NSF will host one public scoping meeting.

Meeting Date and Location: July 21, 2016, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., New Mexico Museum of Space History, 3198 State Route 2001, Alamogordo, NM 88310. Tel: (575) 437-2840.

Comments will be transcribed by a court reporter. Please contact NSF at least one week in advance of the meeting if you would like to request special accommodations (*i.e.*, sign language interpretation, etc.).

Dated: June 24, 2016.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2016-15783 Filed 7-1-16; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370; NRC-2016-0049]

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC; McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; Alternative to the Physical Inventory Requirements for Movable In-Core Detectors

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Exemption; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an exemption for Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-9 and NPF-17, issued to Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (the licensee) that would allow an alternative to the physical inventory requirements for movable in-core detectors for the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (McGuire), located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

DATES: July 5, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2016-0049 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2016-0049. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

The exemption is being withheld from public disclosure pursuant section 2.390 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), because it contains official use only security-related information. A non-sensitive summary of the exemption is included in this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: G. Edward Miller, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-2481, email: Ed.Miller@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC is the holder of Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-9 and NPF-17, which authorize operation of McGuire. The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules,

regulations, and orders of the NRC now or hereafter in effect. The facility consists of two pressurized-water reactors located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

II. Request/Action

The regulation in 10 CFR 74.19, "Recordkeeping," identifies recordkeeping requirements applicable to special nuclear material (SNM), and 10 CFR 74.19(c) requires, in part, that, "each licensee who is authorized to possess special nuclear material, at any one time and site location, in a quantity greater than 350 grams of contained uranium-235, uranium-233, or plutonium, or any combination thereof, shall conduct a physical inventory of all special nuclear material in its possession under license at intervals not to exceed 12 months."

The licensee requested an exemption from certain recordkeeping requirements in 10 CFR 74.19(c). The exemption would allow the licensee to seek relief from the physical inventory requirements only for movable incore nuclear detectors that have been removed from service and stored in a location that is not readily accessible and is subject to security modifications. The purpose of this request for exemption is to allow an alternative to the physical inventory-taking practices for these non-fuel SNM incore detectors.

III. Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 74.7, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 74 when the exemptions are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest.

The Exemption Is Authorized by Law

This exemption allows the licensee to have an alternative to the physical inventory requirements of 10 CFR 74.19(c) only for movable incore nuclear detectors that have been removed from service. The NRC staff has determined that granting the licensee's proposed exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 74.7 will not result in a violation of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, or the Commission's regulations. Therefore, the exemption is authorized by law.

The Exemption Presents No Undue Risk to Public Health and Safety

The underlying purpose of 10 CFR 74.19(c) is to ensure SNM is properly accounted for, appropriately secured, and that authorities are informed of any

theft, diversion, or loss. Based on the information provided, no new accident precursors are created by the description of actions the licensee has provided concerning the physical inventory for the incore nuclear detectors. Thus, the probability of postulated accidents is not increased. Also, the consequences of postulated accidents are not increased. Therefore, there is no undue risk to public health and safety.

The Exemption Is Consistent With the Common Defense and Security

The proposed exemption would allow the licensee to address the physical inventory of the non-fuel SNM. The licensee indicated that the overall alternative approach will continue to meet the intent of the physical inventory requirements of 10 CFR 74.19(c). Therefore, the common defense and security are not impacted by this exemption.

IV. Conclusion

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 74.7, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC an exemption from the physical inventory requirements of 10 CFR 74.19(c) for McGuire.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, "Finding of no significant impact," the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment as published in the **Federal Register** on March 8, 2016 (81 FR 12132).

The exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of June, 2016.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Anne T. Boland,

Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2016-0127]

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Combined Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Biweekly notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 189a. (2) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. The Act requires the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, and grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license or combined license, as applicable, upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued from June 7, 2016, to June 20, 2016. The last biweekly notice was published on June 21, 2016.

DATES: Comments must be filed by August 4, 2016. A request for a hearing must be filed by September 6, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (unless this document describes a different method for submitting comments on a specific subject):

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2016-0127. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-415-3463; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn Ronewicz, Office of Nuclear