

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
 John W.N. Hickey,
*Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning
 Projects Branch, Division of Waste
 Management Office of Nuclear Material
 Safety and Safeguards.*
 [FR Doc. 97-6479 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, and
 STN 50-530]

**Arizona Public Service Company; Palo
 Verde Nuclear Generating Station,
 Units Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Environmental
 Assessment and Finding of No
 Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission (the Commission) is
 considering issuance of amendments to
 Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41,
 NPF-51, and NPF-74, issued to Arizona
 Public Service Company (the licensee),
 for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear
 Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2, and
 3, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.
 Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would modify
 the licenses for Palo Verde Nuclear
 Generating Station (PVNGS), Unit Nos.
 1, 2, and 3, to authorize incorporation
 in the Updated Final Safety Analysis
 Report (UFSAR) a revised large-break
 loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA)
 analysis. The revised LBLOCA analysis
 addresses a previously unanalyzed
 release path through the steam
 generators to the atmosphere.

The proposed action is in accordance
 with the licensee's application dated
 May 2, 1995, as supplemented by letter
 March 7, 1996.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would permit
 the UFSAR to be revised to address a
 previously unanalyzed release path
 through the steam generators to the
 atmosphere for the LBLOCA. This
 would incorporate this release path into
 the licensing basis of the facility.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed
 Action*

The Commission has completed its
 evaluation of the proposed action and
 concludes that there are no significant
 environmental considerations involved
 with the proposed action. The
 incorporation in the UFSAR for PVNGS
 Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the previously
 unanalyzed release path in the LBLOCA
 does not affect the design or operation
 of the plant, does not involve any
 modifications to the plant or any
 increase in the licensed power for the

plant, does not affect plant effluents,
 does not increase the probability of any
 postulated accident and will not create
 a new accident, and does not create any
 new or unreviewed environmental
 impacts that were not considered in the
 Final Environmental Statement (FES).

The FES did not consider in its
 evaluation of a LBLOCA, the leakage of
 containment atmosphere through the
 steam generators and to the public.
 Assessment of environmental impacts of
 the LBLOCA accounted for radiological
 releases from the containment and
 emergency core cooling system into the
 environment. For the revised analysis of
 the LBLOCA, atmospheric releases
 through the steam generators could be
 considered part of the leakage of
 containment atmosphere into the
 environment, although the location of
 release is different. The FES analyzed
 radiological releases from the steam
 generators to the environment in the
 evaluation of the steam generator tube
 rupture accident. Thus, the FES
 evaluated releases to the environment
 from steam generators, but this release
 pathway was not included in the
 LBLOCA analysis. The revised LBLOCA
 analysis does not significantly increase
 the environmental impacts of postulated
 accidents which are discussed in
 Section 5.9.2 of the FES, and is of no
 measurable environmental impact.

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 Related to the Operation of
 the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating
 Station, Units 1, 2, and 3," dated
 February 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy,
 on March 7, 1997, the staff consulted
 with the Arizona State official, Mr.
 William Wright of the Arizona
 Radiation Regulatory Agency, 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 letter
 dated May 2, 1995, as supplemented by
 letter dated March 7, 1996, 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
 Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central
 Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day
 of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
 James W. Clifford,
*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate
 IV-2, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV,
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*
 [FR Doc. 97-6481 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket No. 50-271]

**Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
 Corporation; Vermont Yankee Nuclear
 Power Station; Environmental
 Assessment and Finding of No
 Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
 Commission (the Commission) is
 considering issuance of an exemption
 for Facility Operating License No. DPR-
 28, issued to Vermont Yankee Nuclear
 Power Corporation (the licensee), for
 operation of the Vermont Yankee
 Nuclear Power Station (the facility)
 located in Windham County, Vermont.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Actions

The proposed exemption would grant
 relief in certain outdoor areas of the
 protected area of the facility to allow
 use of security lighting for outdoor
 access and egress and the performance
 of one specified task in either of two
 locations for compliance with Section
 III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR part 50.
 The exemption would include outdoor
 portions of the protected area for access
 and egress and for supply of nitrogen
 from either of two outdoor locations: (1)
 the 15,000 gallon liquid nitrogen
 containment inerting tank located
 outdoors, east of the reactor building, or
 (2) nitrogen storage bottles located on
 the west wall of the reactor building
 equipment air lock.

The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated June 17, 1996.

The Need for the Proposed Actions

The need for this action arises for certain Appendix R fire scenarios whose safe shutdown strategy does not immediately depressurize the reactor and uses low pressure injections systems, and thus requires the safety relief valves (SRVs) to be actuated multiple times during a cooldown. Although each SRV accumulator has capacity for at least five valve strokes, a long term source of nitrogen, beyond the capacity of the SRV accumulators is required in order to provide for additional valve strokes for some scenarios. The nitrogen may be provided from either of two nitrogen storage locations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Actions

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption and concludes that the proposed exemption will provide sufficient fire protection that there is no increase in the risk of fires at the facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents.

The proposed exemption affects only the source of illumination credited for safe shutdown functions. No physical change results from the proposed exemption, and, as discussed above, the probability of fires has not been increased. Therefore, 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 is 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 actions.

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

Alternatives to the Proposed Actions

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed actions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed actions, the staff considered denial of the proposed actions. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed actions and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

These actions do not involve use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 26, 1997, the staff consulted with the Vermont State official, Mr. William K. Sherman of the Vermont Department of Public Service, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed actions. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed actions 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 exemption.

For further details with respect to the proposed actions, see the application dated June 17, 1996, 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 Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 5th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Patrick D. Milano,
*Acting Director, Project Directorate I-3,
Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-6482 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Core Research Capabilities for the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research; Meeting

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: NRC staff and industry will discuss the core research capabilities of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

DATES: March 25, 1997, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Room O-1F7/9, One White Flint North (OWFN) Building, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Lloyd Donnelly, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555 Telephone (301) 415-5828.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the core research capabilities of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in order for this office to continue active participation in cooperative safety research activities with other government agencies including DOE, industry, and international organizations concerned with nuclear reactor safety.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
David L. Morrison,
*Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory
Research.*

[FR Doc. 97-6477 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

[Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499]

South Texas Project; Local Public Document Room

Notice is hereby given that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will not be relocating the local public document room (LPDR) for records pertaining to Houston Lighting and Power Company's South Texas Project. The LPDR will remain at the J.M. Hodges Library, Wharton County Junior College, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas. The Library Director has informed the NRC staff that they will continue with the maintenance and operation of the South Texas LPDR.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Russell A. Powell,
*Chief, Freedom of Information/Local Public
Document Room Branch, Office of
Information Resources Management.*

[FR Doc. 97-6480 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P