

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on March 29, 1995 (60 FR 16195). However, by letter dated March 19, 1997, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated January 13, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated June 2, 1995, and the licensee's letter dated March 19, 1997, which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above documents 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 Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (REGIONAL DEPOSITORY) Education Building, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph W. Shea,

Project Manager, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97-12465 Filed 5-12-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-388]

Pennsylvania Power and Light Company; & Notice of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued Amendment No. 139 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 issued to Pennsylvania Power & Light (the licensee), which revised the Technical Specifications for operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, located in Luzerne County, PA. The amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

The amendment modified the Technical Specifications to authorize the use of ATRIUM-10 fuel in the reactor for the ninth refueling cycle for this plant.

The application for the amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the

Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I, which are set forth in the license amendment.

Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Opportunity for a Hearing in connection with this action was published in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 1997 (62 FR 12859). No request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

The Commission has prepared an Environmental Assessment related to the action and has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement. Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission has concluded that the issuance of the amendment will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (62 FR 24669).

For further details with respect to the action see (1) the application for amendment dated December 18, 1996 as supplemented on February 26, March 12 and 27, April 3, 9, 16, 18, and 24, 1997, (2) Amendment No. 139 to License No. NPF-22, (3) the Commission's related Safety Evaluation, and (4) the Commission's Environmental Assessment. All of these items 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 Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Chester Poslusny, Sr.,

Project Manager, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97-12464 Filed 5-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-346]

Toledo Edison Company; Centerior Service Company and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company; Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1; Environmental Assessment and Finding of no Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval, by issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80, of the indirect transfer of Facility Operating

License No. NPF-3, issued to Toledo Edison Company, et al., the licensees, for operation of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, located in Ottawa County, Ohio.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would consent to the indirect transfer of the license with respect to a proposed merger between Centerior Energy Corporation (the parent corporation for Toledo Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and Centerior Service Company, the licensees for Davis-Besse) and Ohio Edison Company. The merger would result in the formation of a new single holding company, FirstEnergy Corporation.

The proposed action is in accordance with the Toledo Edison Company and Centerior Service Company request for approval dated December 13, 1996. Supplemental information was submitted by letter dated February 14, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is required to obtain the necessary consent to the indirect transfer of the license discussed above. According to the licensees, the underlying transaction is needed to create a stronger, more competitive enterprise that is expected to save over \$1 billion over the first 10 years of FirstEnergy operation.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has reviewed the proposed action and concludes that there will be no changes to the facility or its operation as a result of the proposed action. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

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 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, dated October 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 18, 1997, the staff consulted with the Ohio State official, Carol O'Claire, of the Ohio Emergency Management 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 Toledo Edison Company and Centerior Service Company submittal dated December 13, 1996, supplemented by letter dated February 14, 1997, 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 University of Toledo, William Carlson Library, Government Documents Collection, 2801 West Bancroft Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Allen G. Hansen,

*Project Manager, Project Directorate III-3,
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-12466 Filed 5-12-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Proposed Generic Letter; Potential for Degradation of the Emergency Core Cooling System and the Containment Spray System After a Loss-of-Coolant Accident Because of Construction and Protective Coating Deficiencies and Foreign Material in the Containment (TAC NO. M97146)

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory
Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to issue a generic letter to licensees of operating nuclear power reactors regarding the potential for degradation of the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and the containment spray system (CSS) after a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) because of construction and protective coating deficiencies and foreign material that may be present in the containment. The NRC is issuing this generic letter to alert licensees to the fact that foreign material continues to be found inside operating nuclear power plant containments. During a design basis LOCA, this foreign material could block the ECCS or safety-related CSS flow path or damage ECCS or safety-related CSS equipment. In addition, construction deficiencies and problems with the material condition of ECCS systems, structures, and components (SSCs) inside the containment continue to be found. Design deficiencies also have been found which could potentially degrade the ECCS or safety-related CSS. No actions or information are requested regarding these issues. The NRC has issued many previous generic communications on this subject and expects licensees to have considered possible actions at their facilities to address these concerns.

The NRC is also issuing this generic letter to alert licensees to the problems associated with the material condition of protective coatings inside the containment and to request information under 10 CFR 50.54(f) to evaluate their programs for ensuring that protective coatings do not detach from their substrate during a design basis LOCA and interfere with the operation of the ECCS and the safety-related CSS. The NRC intends to use this information to assess whether current regulatory requirements are being correctly implemented and whether they should be revised.

The NRC expects addressees to ensure that the ECCS and the safety-related CSS remain capable of performing their intended safety functions. The NRC will conduct inspections to ensure compliance with existing licensing bases and respond to discovered inadequacies with aggressive enforcement consistent with its enforcement policy.

The NRC is seeking comment from interested parties regarding both the technical and regulatory aspects of the proposed generic letter presented under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** heading.

The proposed generic letter was endorsed by the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) on May 5, 1997. The relevant information that was sent to the CRGR will be placed in the Public Document Room. The NRC will consider comments received from interested parties in the final evaluation of the proposed generic letter. The final evaluation by the NRC will include a review of the technical position and, as appropriate, an analysis of the value/impact on licensees. Should this generic letter be issued by the NRC, it will become available for public inspection in the Public Document Room.

DATES: Comment period expires June 27, 1997. Comments submitted after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so; assurance of consideration can only be given for those comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Written comments may also be delivered to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 am to 4:15 pm, Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Richard M. Lobel (301) 415-2865 or
James A. Davis (301) 415-2713.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

NRC Generic Letter 97-XX: Potential for Degradation of the Emergency Core Cooling System and the Containment Spray System After a Loss-of-Coolant Accident Because of Construction and Protective Coating Deficiencies and Foreign Material in the Containment

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this generic letter for several reasons. It alerts addressees that foreign material continues to be found inside operating nuclear power plant containments. During a design basis loss-of-coolant accident (DB LOCA), this foreign material could block an emergency core cooling system (ECCS) or safety-related containment spray system (CSS) flow path or damage ECCS or safety-related