

DATES: Responses to this Notice must be received on or before November 3, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beth Vrioni at (407) 867-6225.

Dated: August 27, 1997.

Edward A. Frankle,

General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 97-23433 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510-01-M

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Meetings of Humanities Panel

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Humanities.

ACTION: Notice of additional meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), notice is hereby given that the following meetings of the Humanities Panel will be held at the Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy E. Weiss, Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C. 20506; telephone (202) 606-8322. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on (202) 606-8282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed meetings are for the purpose of panel review, discussion, evaluation and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including discussion of information given in confidence to the agency by the grant applicants. Because the proposed meetings will consider information that is likely to disclose: (1) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential; or (2) information of a personal nature the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, pursuant to authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to Close Advisory Committee meetings, dated July 19, 1993, I have determined that this meeting will be closed to the public pursuant to subsections (c)(4), and (6) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

1. *Date:* September 29, 1997.
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Room: 315.

Program: This meeting will review applications for Education Development and Demonstration in Focus Grants I, submitted to the Division of Research and Education for projects at the September 15, 1997 deadline.

2. *Date:* September 30, 1997.

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Room: 315.

Program: This meeting will review applications for Education Development and Demonstration in Focus Grants I, submitted to the Division of Research and Education for projects at the September 15, 1997 deadline.

Nancy E. Weiss,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-23436 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-155]

Consumers Energy Company; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Consumers Energy Company (the licensee) to withdraw its October 15, 1996, as supplemented on April 22, 1997, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-6 for the Big Rock Point Plant, located in Charlevoix County, Michigan.

The proposed changes would have modified the facility technical specifications pertaining to the use of Option B, Performance Based Requirements, of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, for the Type A, Type B, and Type C tests. In addition, the amendment request proposed several editorial changes to the Big Rock Point technical specifications.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on June 4, 1997 (62 FR 30630). However, by letters dated April 22, 1997, and August 25, 1997, the licensee withdrew the proposed changes.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 15, 1996, and the licensee's letters dated April 22, 1997, and August 25, 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 North Central Michigan College, 1515 Howard Street, Petoskey, Michigan 49770.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of August 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Linh N. Tran,

Project Manager, Project Directorate III-1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97-23473 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-331]

Order Approving Application Regarding Merger Agreement Between IES Industries Inc., WPL Holdings, Inc., and Interstate Power Corporation

In the Matter of IES Utilities Inc. (Duane Arnold Energy Center).

I

IES Utilities Inc. (IESU) is a wholly owned subsidiary of IES Industries Inc. (IESI). IESU is the operator and a 70-percent owner of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). IESU and the minority owners, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, hold Facility Operating License DPR-49 issued by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission pursuant to part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR part 50) on February 22, 1974. IESU has authority to possess, use, and operate the facility, and the minority owners have the authority to possess the facility. DAEC is located in Linn County, Iowa.

II

By letter dated September 27, 1996, IESU informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) of a proposed merger of IESI, WPL Holdings, Inc. (WPLH), and Interstate Power Corporation (IPC). Under the merger agreement, IESI will merge with and into WPLH, of which IESU would become a wholly owned subsidiary, and IPC will become a subsidiary of WPLH. In addition, WPLH will be renamed Interstate Energy Corporation (IEC). IESU will remain the holder of its license for DAEC. Furthermore, current stockholders of IESI and IPC will become stockholders of IEC, in addition to current WPLH stockholders, pursuant to a formula stipulated in the merger agreement. IESU requested the Commission's approval, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80,

regarding the proposed transactions to the extent they effect an indirect transfer of control of the DAEC license. On February 26, 1997, a notice of consideration of approval of application regarding corporate restructuring was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 8783). An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 1997 (62 FR 24515).

Under 10 CFR 50.80, no license shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission gives its consent in writing. Upon review of the information submitted in the letter of September 27, 1996, and other information before the Commission, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed merger will not affect the qualifications of IESU as a holder of the license, and that the transfer of control of the license, to the extent effected by the proposed merger, is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission, subject to the conditions set forth herein. These findings are supported by a Safety Evaluation dated August 28, 1997.

III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 161b, 161i, 161o, and 184 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2201(b), 2201(i), 2201(o), and 2234, and 10 CFR 50.80, *it is hereby ordered* that the Commission approves the application regarding the merger agreement between IESI, WPLH, and IPC subject to the following: (1) IESU shall provide the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation a copy of any application, at the time it is filed, to transfer (excluding grants of security interests or liens) from IESU to its parent or to any other affiliated company, facilities for the production, transmission, or distribution of electric energy having a depreciated book value exceeding 10 percent of IESU's consolidated net utility plant, as recorded on IESU's books of account; and (2) should the merger not be completed by June 30, 1998, this Order shall become null and void unless, upon application and for good cause shown, this date is extended.

This Order is effective upon issuance.

IV

By October 6, 1997, any person adversely affected by this Order may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the Order. Any person requesting a hearing shall set forth with particularity how such person's interest

is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 2.714(d).

If a hearing is to be held, the Commission will issue an order designating the time and place of such hearing.

The issue to be considered at any such hearing shall be whether this Order should be sustained.

Any request for a hearing must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Copies also should be sent to the Office of the General Counsel and to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Alvin H. Gutterman, Morgan, Lewis and Bockius LLP, 1800 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036-5869, attorney for IESU.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated September 27, 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 Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 First Street, SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of August, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97-23472 Filed 9-3-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-3085]

Draft Environmental Impact Statement—Decommissioning of the Babcock & Wilcox Shallow Land Disposal Area in Parks Township, Pennsylvania

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regarding the proposed decommissioning of the Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Shallow Land Disposal

Area (SLDA) in Parks Township, Pennsylvania. This DEIS describes and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of B&W's proposed approach to decommissioning the radiologically contaminated waste. The B&W preferred approach would allow radioactive material to remain on-site. The wastes would be stabilized by installing an engineered cover system and a system of hydrologic barriers and controls surrounding the trench areas to provide groundwater protection. The coal mine underlying the SLDA would be stabilized by injecting grout into the voids under the trenches to prevent subsidence. Institutional controls would be required in perpetuity to prevent inadvertent intrusion into the waste. The DEIS evaluates the radiological and nonradiological impacts associated with the B&W proposed action and four alternative actions, including no action. Based on the evaluations in this DEIS, the staff's preliminary conclusion is that another alternative, modified stabilization in-place, would protect public health and the environment and would be less costly than the other alternatives. This alternative would include institutional controls and backfilling of the coal mine, but the engineered barriers and cap would not be implemented. For any of the alternatives, off-site impacts would be low and no off-site dose is expected. The DEIS is a preliminary analysis of the environmental impacts of B&W's proposed approach and alternative actions. The issuance of a final EIS, and any NRC decisionmaking based on a final EIS, will not be made until public comments on the DEIS are received and evaluated.

DATES: Written comments on the DEIS should be received at the address listed below by December 15, 1997. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but NRC is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

To the extent practicable, NRC staff will grant reasonable requests for extensions of time for comment up to fifteen (15) days.

ADDRESSES: Mail written comments to David L. Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Deliver comments to 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 am and 4:15 pm, Federal workdays.

Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555. A single copy of the DEIS