

environment (63 FR 35295, dated June 29, 1998).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, MD, this 29th day of June 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-17920 Filed 7-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-382]

Entergy Operations, Inc.; Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-38, issued to Entergy Operations, Inc., (the licensee), for operation of the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3), located in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would change the Waterford 3 Technical Specifications to allow an increase in the Waterford 3 Spent Fuel Pool (SFP) storage capacity from 1088 to 2398 fuel assemblies, and to allow an increase in the maximum fuel enrichment from 4.9 w/o (weight percent) to 5.0 w/o U-235. The increase in spent fuel storage capacity is achieved by replacing the existing spent fuel storage racks by the higher density racks, a process referred to herein as "reracking." The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for license amendment dated March 27, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated April 3, July 21, October 23, November 13, and December 12, 1997, January 21, January 29, March 23, May 1, May 19, May 21, May 28, and June 12, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The Waterford 3 SFP currently contains 1088 storage cells in 16 spent fuel racks and full core off-load capability would be lost in the year 2000. Under the proposed reracking, the 16 existing racks, which contain Boraflex as the neutron absorber, would be removed and replaced by new high density modules. There are no commercial independent spent fuel

storage facilities operating in the U.S., nor are there any domestic reprocessing facilities; therefore, the projected loss of storage capacity in the Waterford 3 SFP would affect the licensee's ability to operate Waterford 3. The proposed amendment will provide a full core off-load capability through the end of Cycle 19 (Year 2018).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Radiological Impacts

The Waterford 3 uses waste treatment systems designed to collect and process gaseous, liquid, and solid waste that might contain radioactive material. These radioactive waste treatment systems are evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) dated March 1973. The proposed rerack will not involve any change in the waste treatment systems described in the FES.

Radioactive Material Released to the Atmosphere

During reactor operation, a small percentage of the fuel assemblies in the core are expected to develop leaks, resulting in a release of fission products to the reactor coolant. The storage of additional spent fuel assemblies in the SFP will not significantly affect the release of radioactive gases from the SFP since fission products generally do not escape from the SFP.

The higher fuel burnup used in the new rack analysis will result in a higher concentration of Krypton-85 (Kr-85) in the reactor coolant, some of which will be introduced into the SFP water during refuelings. Accounting for this increased Kr-85 concentration in the SFP water, the licensee calculated that the Kr-85 concentration in the air in the fuel handling building would be two orders of magnitude lower than the permissible effluent concentration for the general public (Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 20).

Iodine-131 released from spent fuel assemblies to the SFP water will not be significantly increased due to the expansion of the fuel storage capacity since the Iodine-131 inventory in the fuel will decay to negligible levels between refuelings.

Most of the tritium in the SFP water results from activation of boron and lithium in the primary coolant. A relatively small amount of tritium is produced during reactor operation by the fission process within the reactor fuel. The subsequent diffusion of the tritium through the fuel and cladding represents a small contribution to the total amount of tritium in the SFP water. Tritium releases from the fuel assemblies to the reactor coolant occur

mainly during reactor operation and, to a limited extent, shortly after shutdown. Since a small portion of the tritium is due to fission in the fuel, the increased fuel burnup will result in an increase in the amount of tritium in the reactor coolant.

Most airborne releases of tritium from nuclear power plants result during refuelings from evaporation of reactor coolant, which contains tritium in higher concentrations than in the SFP. The storage of additional spent fuel assemblies in the SFP is not expected to increase the SFP bulk water temperature significantly above the 155° used in the design analysis and, therefore, evaporation rates from the SFP are not expected to increase. The higher tritium concentrations in the SFP water are expected to result in higher airborne tritium levels in the fuel handling building. However, the licensee has calculated these tritium levels to be lower than the permissible effluent concentrations for the general public contained in Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 20.

Solid Radioactive Wastes

Spent resins are generated by the processing of SFP water through the SFP purification system. These spent resins are replaced about two to four times a year and are disposed of as solid radioactive waste. The licensee will use a vacuum system with an underwater filtration unit to clean the floor of the Cask Storage Pit prior to reracking and the floor of the SFP following removal of the old SFP rack modules. Vacuuming of the SFP and Cask Storage Pit will remove any extraneous debris, reduce general contamination levels prior to diving operations, and ensure visual clarity in the SFP to facilitate diving operations and SFP rack changeout. The licensee also plans on hydrolazing the old fuel rack modules with demineralized water before removal from the SFP to remove any loose crud from the modules. If necessary, the licensee may also use a wire brush or equivalent abrasive tool to assist in the removal of hot particles. The licensee does not expect that the additional fuel storage made possible by the increased storage capacity will result in a significant change in the generation of solid radwaste (in the form of spent resins).

Once the old SFP rack modules have been hydrolazed, they will be placed into anti-contamination bags and loaded into shipping containers for shipment offsite for decontamination and disposal. The licensee has stated that the shipping containers and procedures will conform to all applicable U.S.

Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or U.S. NRC regulations.

Liquid Radioactive Wastes

There should not be a significant increase in the liquid release of radionuclides from the plant as a result of the modifications. The SFP cooling and purification system operates as a closed system. The SFP ion exchanger resins remove soluble radioactive materials from the SFP water and the frequency of resin changeout may increase during the installation of the new racks due to the more frequent fuel shuffling and underwater hydrolazing of the old racks during removal. When the resins are changed out, a small amount of resin sluice water is released. However, the amount of liquid radioactive released to the environment as a result of the proposed reracking is expected to be negligible.

Occupational Doses

Radiation Protection personnel will constantly monitor the doses to the workers during the reracking operation. Divers used to perform work in the SFP will be equipped with five remote readout radiation detectors, which will be continuously monitored by Radiation Protection personnel. The total occupational dose to plant workers as a result of the reracking operation is estimated to be between 6 and 12 person-rem. This dose estimate is comparable to doses for similar SFP modifications performed at other plants. The upcoming reracking operation will follow detailed procedures prepared with full consideration of ALARA principles. On the basis of our review of the Waterford 3 proposal, the staff concludes that the Waterford 3 SFP rack modification can be performed in a manner that will ensure that doses to workers will be maintained as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA). The estimated dose of 6 to 12 person-rem to perform the proposed SFP rerack is a small fraction of the annual collective dose accrued at Waterford 3.

Uranium Fuel Cycle and Transportation

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment fuel are discussed in the staff assessment entitled "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation," dated July 7, 1988. This was published in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 1988 (53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322), in connection with an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to the

Sheron Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits of up to 60 gigawatt days per metric ton (GWD/MT) are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed amendment for Waterford 3. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

Accident Considerations

In its application, the licensee evaluated the possible consequences of a fuel handling accident to determine the thyroid and whole-body doses at the Exclusion Area Boundary (EAB), Low Population Zone (LPZ), and Control Room. The proposed reracking of the Waterford 3 SFP will not affect any of the assumptions or inputs used in evaluating the dose consequences of a fuel handling accident and therefore will not result in an increase in the doses from a postulated fuel handling accident.

Nonradiological Impact

The proposed amendment does not modify land use at the site; no new facilities or laydown areas are needed to support the rerack or operation after rerack; therefore, the proposed amendment does not affect land use or land with historical or archeological sites. The proposed action does not result in any significant changes to the types and amounts of effluents that may be released offsite. Therefore, no changes or different types of nonradiological environmental impacts are expected as a result of the amendment.

Summary

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. 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 action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no

significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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 not result in any significant 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 Waterford 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 17, 1998, the staff consulted with the Louisiana State official, Dr. Stan Shaw of the Louisiana Radiation Protection Division, 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 March 27, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated April 3, July 21, October 23, November 13, and December 12, 1997, January 21, January 29, March 23, May 1, May 19, May 21, May 28, and June 12, 1998, 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 New Orleans Library, Louisiana Collection, Lakefront, New Orleans, LA 70122.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of June 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
John N. Hannon,
*Director, Project Directorate IV-1, Division
 of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear
 Reactor Regulation.*
 [FR Doc. 98-17919 Filed 7-6-98; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear
Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of July 6, 13, 20, and 27,
1998.

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

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of July 6

Thursday, July 9

11:30 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public
Meeting) (if needed).

Week of July 13—Tentative

Friday, July 17

9:30 a.m.—Public Meeting on
Stakeholders' Concerns (Public
Meeting) (Contact: Annette Vietti-
Cook, 301-415-1969).

11:30 a.m.—Affirmation Session (Public
meeting) (if needed).

Week of July 20—Tentative

Tuesday, July 21

1:30 p.m.—Meeting with Advisory
Committee on Nuclear Waste
(ACNW) (Public Meeting) (Contact:
John Larkins, 301-415-7360).

3:00 p.m.—Affirmation Session (Public
Meeting) (If needed).

Week of July 27—Tentative

Wednesday, July 29

2:00 p.m.—Briefing on Operating
Reactors and Fuel Facilities (Public
Meeting) (Contact: Glenn Tracy,
301-415-1725).

4:00 p.m.—Affirmation Session (Public
Meeting) (If needed).

*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:
Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

The NRC Commission Meeting
Schedule can be found on the Internet
at:

[http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/
schedule.htm](http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm)

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 it, please contact the
Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations
Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-
415-1661). 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 wmh@nrc.gov or
dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

Secy, Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-18123 Filed 7-2-98; 3:10 pm]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Review of an Information Collection: RI 25-37

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995
(Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), this
notice announces that the Office of
Personnel Management (OPM) has
submitted to the Office of Management
and Budget a request for review of an
information collection. Form RI 25-37,
Evidence to Prove Dependency of a
Child, is designed to collect sufficient
information for the OPM to be able to
determine whether the surviving child
of a deceased Federal employee is
eligible to receive benefits as a
dependent child.

Approximately 250 forms are
completed annually. We estimate it
takes approximately 60 minutes to
assemble the needed documentation.
The annual burden is 250 hours.

For copies of this proposal, contact
Mary Beth Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-
8358, or E-mail to mbtoomey@opm.gov

DATES: Comments on this proposal
should be received on or before August
6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments
to: Lorraine E. Dettman, Chief,
Operations Support Division,
Retirement and Insurance Service, U.S.
Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E
Street, NW, Room 3349, Washington,
DC 20415 and Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk
Officer, Office of Information and
Regulatory Affairs, Office of
Management and Budget, New

Executive Office Building, NW, Room
10235, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION—CONTACT:
Dory Zamani, Budget & Administrative
Services Division, (202) 606-0623.

Office of Personnel Management.

Janice R. Lachance,

Director.

[FR Doc. 98-17840 Filed 7-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325-01-P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Proposed Collection; Comment Request; OPM Form 1203

AGENCY: Office of Personnel
Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995
(Public Law 104-13, May 22, 1995), the
Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
is submitting a request to the Office of
Management and Budget (OMB) for
approval of a form which collects
information from the public. OPM Form
1203, Occupational Supplement
Series—Form C, is an optical scan form
designed to collect applicant
information and qualifications in a
format suitable for automated
processing and to create basic applicant
records for an automated examining
system. OPM uses the form to carry out
their responsibility for open competitive
examining for admission to the
competitive service in accordance with
section 3304, 5 U.S.C.

Approximately 500,000 forms are
completed each year with an average
completion time of 27 minutes. For
copies of this proposal, call Mary Beth
Smith-Toomey on (202) 606-8358 or
email to mbtoomey@opm.gov.

DATES: Comments on this proposal
should be received on or before August
6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send or deliver comments
to: Joseph Lackey, OPM Desk Officer,
Office of Information and Regulatory
Affairs, U.S. Office of Management and
Budget, New Executive Office Building,
Room 10235, NW., Washington, DC
20503, and Mrs. Crystal A. Wilson, U.S.
Office of Personnel Management,
Nationwide Examining Policy Office,
1900 E Street, NW, Room 2458,
Washington, DC 20415.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Crystal A. Wilson, (202) 606-1010.