

supplied with adequate respirable air. Respirable air shall be provided of the quality and quantity required in accordance with NIOSH/MSHA certification (described in 30 CFR part 11). Oxygen and air shall not be used in the same apparatus." By letter dated March 3, 1998, as supplemented May 5, 1998, the licensee requested an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 20.1703(a)(1), 10 CFR 20.1703(c) and 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, Footnote d.2 (d).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2301, the Commission may, upon application by a licensee or upon its own initiative, grant an exemption from the requirements of the regulations in Part 20 if it determines that the exemption is authorized by law and would not result in undue hazard to life or property.

III

The NAPS 1&2 containments are designed to be maintained at subatmospheric pressure during power operations. The containment pressure can range from 9.0 to 11.0 pounds per square inch absolute (psia). This containment environment could potentially impact personnel safety due to reduced pressure and resulting oxygen deficiency. Such environment requires the use of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with enriched oxygen breathing gas. The licensee initially purchased Mine Safety Appliances, Inc. (MSA) Model 401 open-circuit, dual-purpose, pressure-demand SCBAs constructed of brass components which were originally intended for use with compressed air. The licensee qualified the Model 401 cylinders for use with 35% oxygen/65% nitrogen following the recommendations of the Compressed Gas Association's Pamphlet C-10, Recommended Procedures for Changes of Gas Service for Compressed Gas Cylinders, which established procedures to utilize these devices with an enriched oxygen mixture. The licensee is currently using these SCBAs with 35% oxygen/65% nitrogen instead of compressed air. The MSA Model 401 SCBA has received the NIOSH/MSHA certification for use with compressed air, but has not been tested for 35% enriched oxygen applications. Using these SCBAs without the NIOSH/MSHA certification requires an exemption from 10 CFR 20.1703(a)(1), 10 CFR 20.1703(c) and 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, Protection Factors for Respirators, Footnote d.2.(d).

IV

Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1703(a)(2), SCBAs that have not been tested or

certified or for which certification has not been extended by NIOSH/MSHA require a demonstration by testing or reliable test information that the material and performance characteristics of the equipment are capable of providing the proposed degree of protection under anticipated conditions of use. VEPCO contracted with National Aeronautic and Space Administration's (NASA) White Sand Test Facility (WSTF) and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to conduct applicable oxygen compatibility testing. WSTF evaluated the compatibility of the MSA Custom 4500 SCBA (testing of the model "MSA Custom 4500" envelops the lower pressure applications of models "MSA Ultralite" and "Model 401") with an oxygen-enriched breathing gas mixture. Based on these evaluations, the licensee concluded that compatibility exists provided 1) all hydrocarbon contamination is removed, 2) the SCBAs are maintained so as to preclude the introduction of hydrocarbon contamination, and 3) the temperature of the system does not exceed 135° F when the regulator is first activated. LLNL also concluded that an MSA Custom 4500, equipped with the interchangeable silicone facepiece, meets the National Fire Protection Association Flame and Heat Test requirements whether operated with 35% oxygen/65% nitrogen breathing gas mixture or with compressed air.

The licensee has indicated that the above conditions are met as follows: (1) the MSA repair guidance stipulates that no hydrocarbon-based compounds are to be used within the pressure boundary during maintenance, (2) the SCBAs are required to be stored and repaired in clean, dry locations free of chemical contamination, (3) containment average temperature is required by Technical Specification to be less than or equal to 120°F at NAPS 1&2, and (4) VEPCO procedural guidance presently requires that SCBAs using 35% oxygen 65% nitrogen breathing gas mixture be equipped with a silicone facepiece. VEPCO has also stated that it has over 20 years of actual safe operating experience using SCBAs with 35% oxygen/65% nitrogen mixture with no incidents of oxygen-induced failure or equipment maintenance problems associated with the enriched oxygen operation.

The combination of the existing NIOSH/MSHA certification of the SCBAs (with compressed air), the testing of the SCBA with the enriched oxygen-nitrogen mixture conducted for VEPCO by NASA and LLNL, and VEPCO's safe use history constitutes an

adequate basis for granting the requested exemption to permit the use of MSA SCBAs Model 401, Custom 4500 and Ultralite with 35% oxygen-65% nitrogen breathing air mixture in the sub-atmospheric containments of NAPS, Units 1 and 2.

V

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2301, the requested exemption is authorized by law, and will not result in undue hazard to life or property. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 20.1703(a)(1), 10 CFR 20.1703(c) and 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, Footnote d.2.(d), for North Anna Power Station, Unit 1 and Unit 2, provided VEPCO uses SCBAs identified and meeting the formal testing outlined above and follows the above described conditions.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (63 FR 40324).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of July, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,
Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-21606 Filed 8-11-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of August 10, 17, 24, and 31, 1998.

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

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of August 10

There are no meetings the week of August 10.

Week of August 17—Tentative

Wednesday, August 19

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

Week of August 24—Tentative

Tuesday, August 25

10:00 a.m.—Briefing on 10 CFR Part 70—Proposed Rulemaking, “Revised Requirements for the Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material” (Public Meeting) (Contact: Elizabeth Ten Eyck, 301-415-7212)

Wednesday, August 26

2:00 p.m.—Briefing on Status of Activities with CNWRA and HLW Program (Public Meeting) (Contact: Mike Bell, 301-415-7286)

3:30 p.m.—Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Week of August 31

Wednesday, September 2

10:00 a.m.—Briefing on PRA Implementation Plan (Public Meeting) (Contact: Tom King, 301-415-5828)

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

Thursday, September 3

10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.—All Employees Meetings (Public Meetings) on “The Green” Plaza Area between buildings at White Flint (Contact: Bill Hill—301-415-1661)

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>

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: August 7, 1998.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-21667 Filed 8-7-98; 4:14 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations****I. Background**

Pursuant to Public Law 97-415, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. Public Law 97-415 revised section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to require the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, under a new provision of section 189 of the Act. This provision grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license 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 July 20, 1998, through July 31, 1998. The last biweekly notice was published on July 29, 1998 (63 FR 40551).

Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the following amendment requests involve no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The basis for this proposed determination for each amendment request is shown below.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period.

However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received before action is taken. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administration Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. The filing of requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By September 11, 1998, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's “Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings” in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC and at the local public document room for the particular facility involved. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or