

Program, at (916) 657-2666. If reasonable accommodation is needed due to a disability, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at (916) 653-6952 or TDD (916) 653-6934 at least one week prior to the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta system) is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. In recognition of the serious problems facing the region and the complex resource management decisions that must be made, the State of California and the Federal government are working together to stabilize, protect, restore, and enhance the Bay-Delta system. The State and Federal agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta system are working together as CALFED to provide policy direction and oversight for the process.

One area of Bay-Delta management includes the establishment of a joint State-Federal process to develop long-term solutions to problems in the Bay-Delta system related to fish and wildlife, water supply reliability, natural disasters, and water quality. The intent is to develop a comprehensive and balanced plan which addresses all of the resource problems. This effort, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Program), is being carried out under the policy direction of CALFED. The Program is exploring and developing a long-term solution for a cooperative planning process that will determine the most appropriate strategy and actions necessary to improve water quality, restore health to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, provide for a variety of beneficial uses, and minimize Bay-Delta system vulnerability. A group of citizen advisors representing California's agricultural, environmental, urban, business, fishing, and other interests who have a stake in finding long-term solutions for the problems affecting the Bay-Delta system. This group, known as the Bay-Delta Advisory Council has been chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The BDAC provides advice to CALFED on the program mission, problems to be addressed, and objectives for the CALFED Program. BDAC provides a forum to help ensure public participation, and will review reports and other materials prepared by CALFED staff. BDAC has established a subcommittee called the Ecosystem Roundtable to provide input on annual workplans to implement ecosystem restoration projects and programs.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Program, Suite 1155, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday within 30 days following the meeting.

Roger Patterson,

Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 99-968 Filed 1-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-94-M

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 26, 1999.

PLACE: NTSB Board Room, 5th Floor, 490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20594.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

7114 Brief of Aviation Accident: Pacific Grove, California, October 12, 1997, and proposed Safety Recommendations.

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: Telephone: (202) 314-6100.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Underwood, (202) 314-6065.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

Rhonda Underwood,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-1265 Filed 1-14-99; 3:57 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-3453]

Atlas Corporation

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of a request from Atlas Corporation to revise a site-reclamation milestone in License No. SUA-917 for the Moab, Utah facility and notice of opportunity for a hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received, by letter dated December 22, 1998, a request from Atlas Corporation (Atlas) to amend License Condition (LC) 55 B.(2) of Source Material License SUA-917 for the Moab, Utah, facility. The license amendment request proposes to modify LC 55 B.(2) to change the completion date for ground-water corrective actions to meet performance objectives specified in the ground-water

corrective action plan. Atlas proposes to revise the date pursuant to the reasonable and prudent alternative and mitigative measures stipulated in the Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 31, 1998. The reasonable and prudent alternative states that ground water should be cleaned up to relevant standards within 7 years from Atlas' receipt of NRC approval of a revised ground-water corrective action plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Myron Fliegel, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone (301) 415-6629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The portion of LC 55 B.(2) with the proposed change would read as follows:

B. Reclamation, to ensure required longevity of the covered tailings and ground-water protection, shall be completed as expeditiously as is reasonably achievable, in accordance with the following target dates for completion.

(2) Projected completion of ground-water corrective actions to meet performance objectives specified in the ground-water corrective action plan—July 31, 2006.

Atlas' request to amend LC 55 B.(2) of Source Material License SUA-917, which describes the proposed changes to the license condition and the reason for the request, is being made available for public inspection at NRC's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555.

NRC hereby provides notice of an opportunity for a hearing on the license amendment under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings." Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing. In accordance with § 2.1205(c), a request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, either:

(1) By delivery to the Docketing and Service Branch of the Office of the Secretary at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852; or

(2) By mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.1205(e), each request for a hearing must also be

served, by delivering it personally or by mail, to:

(1) The applicant, Atlas Corporation, Republic Plaza, 370 Seventeenth Street, Suite 3050, Denver, Colorado 80202, Attention: Richard Blubaugh; and

(2) The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, or by mail addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of NRC's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

(1) The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;

(2) How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);

(3) The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and

(4) The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

The request must also set forth the specific aspect or aspects of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes a hearing.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of January 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

N. King Stablein,

*Acting Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch,
Division of Waste Management, Office of
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 99-1076 Filed 1-15-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-309]

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station); Application of Exemption

Exemption

I

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-36, which authorizes the licensee to possess the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station (MYAPS). The license states, among other things, that the facility is subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) now or hereafter in effect. The facility

consists of a pressurized-water reactor located at the licensee's site in Lincoln County, Maine. The facility is permanently shut down and defueled, and the licensee is no longer authorized to operate or place fuel in the reactor.

II

Section 50.54(w) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires power reactor licensees to maintain onsite property damage insurance coverage in the amount of \$1.06 billion. Section 140.11(a)(4) of 10 CFR Part 140 requires a reactor with a rated capacity of 100,000 electrical kilowatts or more to maintain liability insurance of \$200 million and to participate in a secondary insurance pool.

NRC may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 of the regulations, which, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), (1) are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security and (2) present special circumstances. Special circumstances exist when (1) application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule (10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii)) or (2) compliance would result in undue hardship or costs that are significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated. The underlying purpose of Section 50.54(w) is to provide sufficient property damage insurance coverage to ensure funding for onsite post-accident recovery stabilization and decontamination costs in the unlikely event of an accident at a nuclear power plant.

NRC may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 140 of the regulations, which, pursuant to 10 CFR 140.8, are authorized by law and are otherwise in the public interest. The underlying purpose of Section 140.11 is to provide sufficient liability insurance to ensure funding for claims resulting from a nuclear incident or a precautionary evacuation.

III

On January 20, 1998, the licensee requested exemption from the financial protection requirement limits of 10 CFR 50.54(w) and 10 CFR 140.11. The licensee requested that the amount of insurance coverage it must maintain be reduced to \$50 million for onsite property damage and \$100 million for offsite financial protection. The licensee stated that special circumstances exist because of the permanently shutdown and defueled condition of MYAPS.

The financial protection limits of 10 CFR 50.54(w) and 10 CFR 140.11 were established to require a licensee to maintain sufficient insurance to cover the costs of a nuclear accident at an operating reactor. Those costs were derived from the consequences of a release of radioactive material from the reactor. Although the risk of an accident at an operating reactor is very low, the consequences can be large. In an operating plant, the high temperature and pressure of the reactor coolant system, as well as the inventory of relatively short-lived radionuclides, contribute to both the risk and consequences of an accident. In a permanently shutdown and defueled reactor facility, the reactor coolant system will never again be operated, thus eliminating the possibility of accidents involving the reactor. A further reduction in risk occurs because decay heat from the spent fuel decreases over time. This reduction in decay heat reduces the amount of energy available to heat up the spent fuel to a temperature that could compromise the ability of the fuel cladding to retain fission products.

Along with the reduction in risk, the consequences of a release decline after a reactor permanently shuts down and defuels. The short-lived radionuclides contained in the spent fuel, particularly volatile components such as iodine-131 and most of the noble gases, decay away, thereby reducing the inventory of radioactive materials that are readily dispersible and transportable in air.

Although the risk and consequences of a radiological release decline substantially after a plant permanently defuels its reactor, they are not completely eliminated. There are potential onsite and offsite radiological consequences that could be associated with the onsite storage of the spent fuel in the spent fuel pool (SFP). In addition, a site may contain a radioactive inventory of liquid radwaste, activated reactor components, and contaminated structural materials. For purposes of modifying the amount of insurance coverage maintained by a power reactor licensee, the potential consequences, despite very low risk, are an appropriate consideration.

To determine the insurance coverage sufficient for a permanently defueled facility, the cost of recovery from potential accident scenarios must be evaluated. At MYAPS, spent fuel is the largest source term on the site. The spent fuel is stored in the SFP, which uses water to cool the fuel. Wet storage of spent fuel possesses inherently large safety margins because of the simplicity and robustness of the SFP design. The