

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 Perry Public Library, 3753 Main Street, Perry, Ohio.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of August 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Jon B. Hopkins,

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

[FR Doc. 96-20681 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 50-346]

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

In the Matter of: Toledo Edison Company; Centerior Service Company; and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company; Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License No. NPF-3, issued to the Toledo Edison Company, Centerior Service Company and The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (the licensees), for operation of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS), located in Ottawa County, Ohio.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensees' application dated June 28, 1996, for an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for Physical Protection of Licensed Activities in Nuclear Power Reactors Against Radiological Sabotage." The requested exemption would allow the implementation of a hand geometry biometric system of site access control in conjunction with photograph identification badges and would allow the badges to be taken off site.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55(a), the licensee is required to establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization.

In 10 CFR 73.55(d), "Access Requirements," it specifies in part that "The licensee shall control all points of personnel and vehicle access into a protected area." In 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), it specifies in part that "A numbered picture badge identification system shall

be used for all individuals who are authorized access to protected areas without escort." It further indicates that an individual not employed by the licensee (e.g., contractors) may be authorized access to protected areas without an escort provided the individual "receives a picture badge upon entrance into the protected area which must be returned upon exit from the protected area."

Currently, unescorted access for both employee and contractor personnel into the DBNPS is controlled through the use of picture badges. Positive identification of personnel who are authorized and request access into the protected area is established by security personnel making a visual comparison of the individual requesting access and that individual's picture badge. The picture badges are issued, stored, and retrieved at the entrance/exit location to the protected area. In accordance with 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), contractor personnel are not allowed to take their picture badges off site. In addition, in accordance with the plant's physical security plan, the licensees' employees are also not allowed to take their picture badges off site. The licensees propose to implement an alternative unescorted access control system which would eliminate the need to issue and retrieve picture badges at the entrance/exit location to the protected area. The proposal would also allow contractors who have unescorted access to keep their picture badges in their possession when departing the DBNPS site. In addition, the site security plans will be revised to allow implementation of the hand geometry system and to allow employees and contractors with unescorted access to keep their picture badges in their possession when leaving the DBNPS site.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. In addition to their picture badges, all individuals with authorized unescorted access will have the physical characteristics of their hand (hand geometry) registered with their picture badge number in a computerized access control system. Therefore, all authorized individuals must have not only their picture badges to gain access into the protected area, but must also have their hand geometry confirmed.

All other access processes, including search function capability and access revocation, will remain the same. A security officer responsible for access control will continue to be positioned within a bullet-resistant structure. The

proposed system is only for individuals with authorized unescorted access and will not be used for individuals requiring escorts.

The underlying purpose for requiring that individuals not employed by the licensees must receive and return their picture badges at the entrance/exit is to provide reasonable assurance that the access badges could not be compromised or stolen with a resulting risk that an unauthorized individual could potentially enter the protected area. Although the proposed exemption will allow individuals to take their picture badges off site, the proposed measures require that not only the picture badge be provided for access to the protected area, but also that verification of the hand geometry registered with the badge be performed as discussed above. Thus, the proposed system provides an identity verification process that is equivalent to the existing process.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the proposed exemption to allow individuals not employed by the licensees to take their picture badges off site will not result in an increase in the risk that an unauthorized individual could potentially enter the protected area. Consequently, the Commission concludes that granting the exemption will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, will make no changes in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and will not significantly increase 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 involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. 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 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 DBNPS.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on July 22, 1996, 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 licensees' letter dated June 28, 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 University of Toledo, William Carlson Library, Government Documents Collection, 2801 West Bancroft Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of August 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Linda L. Gundrum,
*Project Manager, Project Directorate III-3,
Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96-20679 Filed 8-13-96; 8:45 am]

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Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of August 12, 19, 26, and September 2, 1996.

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

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of August 12

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of August 12.

Week of August 19—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of August 19.

Week of August 26—Tentative

Monday, August 26

2:00 p.m. Meeting with Chairman of Nuclear Safety, Research Review Committee (NSRRC) (public meeting), (Contact: Jose Cortez, 301-415-6596)

Tuesday, August 27

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Design Certification Issues (public meeting), (Contact: Jerry Wilson, 301-415-3145)

2:00 p.m. Briefing on Annealing Demonstration Project (public meeting), (Contact: Michael Mayfield, 301-415-6690)

Wednesday, August 28

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Certification of USEC (public meeting), (Contact: John Hickey, 301-415-7192)

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

Week of September 2—Tentative

Thursday, September 5

10:30 a.m. Briefing by DOE on Status of HLW Program (public meeting)

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.

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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 (301-415-1963).

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 alb@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

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William M. Hill, Jr.,
*SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the
Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-20828 Filed 8-2-96; 11:03 am]

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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, 1996, through August 2, 1996. The last biweekly notice was published on July 31, 1996 (61 FR 40013).

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