

balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated February 5, 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 Pennsville Public Library, 190 S. Broadway, Pennsville, New Jersey 08070.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of February 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
David H. Jaffe,

*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of the Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96–2839 Filed 2–8–96; 8:45 am]

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#### [Docket No. STN 50–529]

#### **Arizona Public Service Company; Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 2, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from Facility Operating License No. NPF–51, issued to Arizona Public Service Company (the licensee), for operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 2, located in Maricopa County, Arizona.

#### **Environmental Assessment**

##### *Identification of the Proposed Action*

The exemption from 10 CFR 50.46; 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix K; and 10 CFR 50.44 would allow the substitution of up to a total of 80 fuel rods clad with advanced zirconium-based alloys in two fuel assemblies for in-reactor performance evaluation purposes during Cycles 7, 8, and 9 for PVNGS Unit 2.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated December 20, 1995.

##### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would permit the use of fuel rods clad with Zirconium-based alloys other than Zircaloy-4 in PVNGS Unit 2 for Cycles 7, 8, and 9.

##### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The temporary exemption will not significantly change the environmental impact of operating the facility. The analysis generated by ABB–Combustion Engineering, Inc. (ABB–CE),

demonstrates that the predicted chemical, mechanical, and material performance of the advanced zirconium-based cladding is within that approved for zircaloy under anticipated operational occurrences and postulated accidents. Thus, the normal fuel performance characteristics of the advanced zirconium-based clad fuel rods will be essentially the same as those observed for standard Zircaloy-4 fuel rods. Furthermore, the lead fuel assemblies will be placed in nonlimiting core locations which do not experience core power density throughout the irradiated periods. The current design bases requirements were applied to the proposed advanced zirconium-based cladding. Because the expected operating conditions (both normal and LOCA) are within those assumed for the fuel rods currently licensed for Palo Verde Unit 2, it is concluded that the licensing basis will not be compromised by incorporating a limited number (40) of advanced zirconium-based clad fuel rods and the environmental impacts of operation under the proposed action will be similar to those currently experienced at the facility.

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 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 Related to the Operation of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3," dated February 1982.

##### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 1, 1996, the staff consulted with the Arizona State official, Mr. William Wright of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory 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 licensee's letter dated December 20, 1995, 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 Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Charles R. Thomas,

*Project Manager, Project Directorate IV–2, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96–2834 Filed 2–8–96; 8:45 am]

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#### [Docket Nos. 50–445 and 50–446]

#### **Texas Utilities Electric Company; Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2; Notice of Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–87 and NPF–89, issued to Texas Utilities Electric Company (TU Electric, the licensee), for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Units 1 and 2, located in Somervell County, Texas.

### *Identification of the Proposed Amendment*

The current licensing basis for CPSES allows up to 1116 fuel assemblies in two storage pools. The currently authorized as-installed configuration has 20 low density racks installed in Spent Fuel Pool No. 1 (SFP1) (556 fuel assembly locations). The proposed action would authorize the use of high density spent fuel storage racks in Spent Fuel Pool No. 2 (SFP2) with a capacity for storing 735 fuel assemblies, for a total of 1291 fuel assemblies.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for license amendment dated December 30, 1994, as supplemented by letters dated July 28, September 14, and November 29, 1995, and January 2, 1996.

### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

The "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel," NUREG-0575, Volumes 1-3, concluded that the environmental impact of interim storage of spent fuel was negligible and the cost of various alternatives reflects the advantage of continued generation of nuclear power with the accompanying spent fuel storage. Because the differences in design, the FGEIS recommended evaluating spent fuel pool expansion on a case-by-case basis.

For CPSES, the expansion of the storage capacity of SFP2 will not create any significant additional radiological effects or nonradiological environmental impacts.

The additional whole body dose that might be received by an individual at the site boundary and the estimated dose to the population within 80 kilometer radius is believed to be too small to have any significance when compared to the fluctuations in the annual dose this population receives from exposure to background radiation. The occupational radiation dose for the proposed operation of the expanded spent fuel pool is estimated to be less than one percent of the total annual occupational radiation exposure for this facility.

The only nonradiological impact affected by the expansion of SFP2 is the waste heat rejected. The total increase in heat load rejected to the environment will be small in comparison to the amount of total heat currently being released. There is no significant environmental impact attributed to the waste heat from the plant due to this very small increase.

### *Finding of No Significant Impact*

The staff has reviewed the proposed spent fuel pool expansion to the facility relative to the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51. Based on this assessment, the staff concludes that there is no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that the issuance of the proposed amendment to the license will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, no environmental impact statement needs to be prepared for this action.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment to the TSs dated December 30, 1994, as supplemented July 28, September 14, and November 29, 1995, and January 2, 1996, (2) the FGEIS on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel (NUREG-0575), (3) the Final Environmental Statement for the CPSES, Units 1 and 2, dated October 1989, and (4) the Environmental Assessment dated February 5, 1996.

These 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 University of Texas at Arlington Library, Government Publications/Maps, 702 College, P. O. Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of February 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
William D. Beckner,  
*Director, Project Directorate IV-1, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96-2835 Filed 2-8-96; 8:45 am]

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### **Relocation of the Pressure Temperature Limit Curves and Low Temperature Overpressure Protection System Limits; Issued**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued Generic Letter 96-03 to advise licensees of nuclear power reactors that they may request a license amendment to relocate the pressure temperature (P/T) limit curves from their plant technical specifications to a pressure temperature limits report (PTLR) or a similar

document. The low temperature overpressure protection (LTOP) system limits may also be relocated to the same document at the discretion of the licensee. This generic letter is available in the Public Document Rooms under accession number 9601290350.

**DATES:** The generic letter was issued on January 31, 1996.

**ADDRESSEES:** Not applicable.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maggalean W. Weston at (301) 415-3151.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** None.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of February, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Dennis M. Crutchfield,  
*Director, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 96-2836 Filed 2-8-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 50-029, (License No. DPR-3)]

### **Yankee Atomic Electric Company, Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 C.F.R. 2.206**

Notice is hereby given that by an "Emergency Motion for Compliance with Circuit Court Opinion" (Petition), dated January 17, 1996, Citizens Awareness Network and New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution (Petitioners) request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take action with regard to operation by Yankee Atomic Energy Company (YAEC or Licensee) of its Nuclear Power Station at Rowe, Massachusetts (Yankee Rowe).

By an Order dated January 23, 1996, the Commission referred the Emergency Motion to the NRC staff for treatment as a petition pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. The Commission ordered the NRC staff to respond to the Petitioners' claim of emergency within 10 days, or February 2, 1996, and to the Petition as a whole within 30 days, or February 22, 1996.

Petitioners request that the NRC comply with *Citizens Awareness Network Inc. v. United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Yankee Atomic Electric Company*, 59 F.3d 284 (1st Cir. 1995) (*CAN v. NRC*). Specifically, Petitioners request that the Commission immediately order:

(1) YAEC not to undertake, and the NRC staff not to approve, further major dismantling activities or other decommissioning activities, unless such activities are necessary to assure the protection of occupational and public