

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 located at the William Madison Randall Library, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-3297. 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 petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert

opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If the amendment is issued before the expiration of the 30-day hearing period, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, the final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the

following message addressed to Mr. Mark Reinhart, Acting Director, Project Directorate II-1, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Mr. William D. Johnson, Vice President and Senior Counsel, Carolina Power & Light Company, Post Office Box 1551, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a 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 March 27, 1997, 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 North Carolina at Wilmington, William Madison Randall Library, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-3297.

Dated at Rockville, MD, this 27th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**David C. Trimble,**

*Project Manager, Project Directorate II-1, Division of Reactor Projects-I-II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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[Docket No. 50-336]

**Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al.; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al. (the licensee) to withdraw its November 30, 1994, application, as supplemented May 8 and August 1, 1995, for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-65 for the Millstone

Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 2, located in New London, Connecticut.

The proposed amendment would have revised the Technical Specifications to clarify the design basis for the Emergency Diesel Generator fuel oil supply.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on December 21, 1994 (59 FR 65818). However, by letter dated February 24, 1997, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 30, 1994, as supplemented May 8 and August 1, 1995, and the licensee's letter dated February 24, 1997, which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above 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 Three Rivers Community—Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, and the Waterford Library, ATTN: Vince Juliano, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Daniel G. McDonald,**

*Senior Project Manager, Special Projects Office—Licensing Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-8203 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 50-271]

**Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station); Exemption**

**I**

The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-28 which authorizes operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (the facility) at power levels no greater than 1593 megawatts thermal. The facility is a single-unit boiling water reactor (BWR) located at the licensee's site in Windham County, Vermont.

The License provides, among other things, that the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

**II**

On November 19, 1980, the Commission published a revised Section 10 CFR 50.48 and a new Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 regarding fire protection features of nuclear power plants. The revised Section 50.48 and Appendix R became effective on February 17, 1981. Section III of Appendix R contains 15 subsections, lettered A through O, each of which specifies requirements for a particular aspect of the fire protection features at a nuclear power plant. Subsection III.J is the subject of the licensee's exemption request.

Section III.J of Appendix R requires that emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply shall be provided in all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto.

**III**

By letter dated June 17, 1996, the licensee requested an exemption from Section III.J of Appendix R. In particular, the licensee stated that it cannot meet the requirements for emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply in the following areas:

- (1) A portion of general yard areas for access and egress to the nitrogen containment inerting tank area and the nitrogen storage bottle area, and
- (2) the nitrogen containment inerting tank area and the nitrogen storage tank area.

The licensee proposes to utilize the security perimeter lighting for outdoor egress routes and for tasks performed in either of two locations. Based on the staff's review of the information provided by the licensee, the staff has concluded, given that the security lighting is powered from a separate power source, the security lighting is not vulnerable to fire loss. The security lighting is inspected and maintained as part of the plant security requirements. The licensee has confirmed that the illumination levels in the affected areas of the plant are adequate to enable operators to implement the actions required for safe shutdown.

Therefore, the staff considers the licensee's alternative lighting configuration to be equivalent to that achieved by literal conformance with Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 and, therefore, meets the underlying purpose of Section III.J of Appendix R. Therefore, the licensee's request for exemption from the requirements of Section III.J in the subject locations should be granted.

**IV**

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), the Commission will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present. Item (ii) of the subject regulation includes special circumstances where application of the subject regulation would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

The underlying purpose of Section III.J of Appendix R is to provide adequate illumination to assure the capability of performing all necessary safe shutdown functions as well as provide illumination for required movements into and out of the plant. In lieu of the 8-hour battery powered units specified by Appendix R, the licensee has proposed using existing security lighting. The staff has reviewed the proposed alternative and has concluded, as described above, that the security lighting system would be a reliable alternative and would provide an adequate level of illumination to assure that all required safe shutdown functions and required personnel movements can be performed. Therefore, the staff concludes that special circumstances exist for the licensee's requested exemption in that imposition of the literal requirements of the regulation in these particular circumstances is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), special circumstances exist in that existing levels of emergency lighting satisfy the underlying purpose of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Further, the staff has concluded that the requested exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the exemption request from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 described in Section III above.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (62 FR 12255).

This Exemption is effective upon issuance.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 23rd day of March 1997.

**Samuel J. Collins,**

*Director Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 97-8205 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

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