

availability of this additional storage capacity may cause a reduction in the power operation or temporary shutdown of Units 1 and 2. The applicant's proposed action would provide the additional capacity required to store spent fuel that is expected to be generated at the North Anna Nuclear Power Station through the end of its currently licensed operating life.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Construction of the proposed ISFSI will affect approximately 4.4 ha (11 acres) of the 422 ha (1,043 acres) site area which is committed to nuclear power plant development. With good construction practices, the potential for fugitive dust, erosion, and noise impacts typical of the planned construction activities can be controlled to insignificant levels. The only resources committed irretrievably are the steel, concrete, and other construction materials in the ISFSI slab and storage cask. Therefore, no significant construction impacts are anticipated.

The routine operation of the proposed ISFSI involves only dry storage of spent nuclear fuel that is sealed in containers (TN-32 casks); there will be no gaseous or liquid effluents released to the environment. External exposure to direct and scattered radiation is the primary pathway of radiation exposure to workers and the general public. The dose to the nearest resident from routine ISFSI operation is estimated to be about 10 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{yr}$ (1.0 mrem/yr). The combined dose to the nearest resident from the ISFSI and the nuclear power plant operation is about 58 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{yr}$ (5.8 mrem/yr). These doses are well below the 250 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{yr}$ (25 mrem/yr) limit specified in 10 CFR 72.104. These doses are a small fraction of the natural background from terrestrial and cosmic radiation of about 1,100 $\mu\text{Sv}/\text{yr}$ (110 mrem/yr) in the State of Virginia.

The dose to an individual at the nearest site boundary from a hypothetical accident has been calculated to be 0.49 mSv (0.049 rem) (whole-body) which is well below the 50 mSv (5 rem) criteria set forth in 10 CFR 72.106(b) and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's protective action guidelines.

There are no nonradiological impacts resulting from the routine ISFSI operation. The operational noise associated with the proposed action will result from the transfer of casks from the North Anna Nuclear Power Station protected area to the ISFSI. Noise associated with this operation is onsite and is expected to be minimal; no

adverse impacts to the general public are anticipated.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

If a permanent Federal repository were available, the preferred alternative would be to ship spent fuel to the repository for disposal. The Department of Energy is currently working to develop a repository, as required under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, but is not likely to have a licensed repository ready to receive spent fuel before 2010. Although DOE recommended that a Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) facility be constructed and operated for interim storage, this proposed action has not taken place so far. Given the uncertainties of schedules for a repository and MRS, these alternatives, therefore, do not meet the near-term interim storage needs of the applicant. Given these conditions, a number of alternatives for the storage of spent fuel prior to the selection of the dry storage ISFSI are discussed in the EA. These alternatives included: (a) expansion of the existing pool, (b) construction of a new storage pool, (c) increasing capacity of the existing pool, (d) spent fuel rod consolidation, (e) transshipment to Surry Nuclear Power Station ISFSI, (f) reduction in rate of spent fuel generation by using high burnup fuel or by reduction in operation, and (g) no action alternative. As discussed in the EA, the Commission has concluded there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed dry storage ISFSI, and other alternatives were not chosen because of the time required for the design and licensing, its high cost, or the storage limitation for expanding existing pool storage at the North Anna Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

Officials from the State of Virginia Bureau of Radiological Health, as well as the Department of Environmental Quality, were contacted in preparing this assessment.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The staff has reviewed the environmental impacts of the proposed ISFSI relative to the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51 and prepared an EA. Based on the EA, the staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that issuance of a license will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31 and 51.32, a finding of no significant impact is appropriate and an environmental impact statement need not be prepared

for the issuance of a materials license for the North Anna ISFSI.

For further details related to this proposed action, the EA and the application, dated May 9, 1995, as supplemented, are available for public inspection, and for copying for a fee, at the NRC Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room for North Anna located at the University of Virginia, Alderman Library, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of March 1997.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Charles J. Haughney,

Deputy Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-8646 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting of the ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Materials and Metallurgy will hold a meeting on April 15-16, 1997, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Tuesday April 15, 1997—1:00 p.m. until the conclusion of business

Wednesday April 16, 1997—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will discuss generic letters regarding steam generator tube inspection techniques, effective use of ultrasonic testing techniques in inservice inspection programs, degradation of steam generator internals, and degradation of reactor vessel head penetrations. The Subcommittee will also discuss the status of issues related to reactor pressure vessel integrity. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Subcommittee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked

only by members of the Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements, and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Noel F. Dudley (telephone 301/415-6888) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EST). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: March 31, 1997.

Sam Duraiswamy,

Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch.

[FR Doc. 97-8645 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a revision to a guide in its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the Commission's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 5.15, "Tamper-Indicating Seals for the Protection and Control of Special Nuclear Material," describes features of systems and types of security seals that are acceptable to the NRC staff for tamper-safing containers of special nuclear material. A tamper-indicating seal is a device used to detect unauthorized removal of material.

The NRC has verified with the Office of Management and Budget the

determination that this regulatory guide is not a major rule.

Comments and suggestions in connection with items for inclusion in guides currently being developed or improvements in all published guides are encouraged at any time. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Regulatory guides are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC. Single copies of regulatory guides may be obtained free of charge by writing the Office of Administration, Attention: Distribution and Services Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by fax at (301)415-2260. Issued guides may also be purchased from the National Technical Information Service on a standing order basis. Details on this service may be obtained by writing NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Regulatory guides are not copyrighted, and Commission approval is not required to reproduce them.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a))

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

David L. Morrison,

Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 97-8651 Filed 4-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Exemption From the Bond/Escrow Requirement Relating to the Sale of Assets by an Employer Who Contributes to a Multiemployer Plan; Dunham-Bush, Inc.

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has granted a request by Dunham-Bush, Inc. for an exemption from the bond/escrow requirement of section 4204(a)(1)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, with respect to the Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund. A notice of the request for an exemption from the requirement was published on December 20, 1996 (61 FR 67355). The effect of this notice is to advise the

public of the decision on the exemption request.

ADDRESSES: The non-confidential portions of the request for an exemption and the PBGC response to the request are available for public inspection at the PBGC Communications and Public Affairs Department, Suite 240, 1200 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas T. Kim, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026; telephone 202-326-4020 ext. 3581 (202-326-4179 for TTY and TDD). These are not toll-free numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4204 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended by the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1980 ("ERISA" or "the Act"), provides that a bona fide arm's-length sale of assets of a contributing employer to an unrelated party will not be considered a withdrawal if three conditions are met. These conditions, enumerated in section 4204(a)(1)(A)-(C), are that—

(A) The purchaser has an obligation to contribute to the plan with respect to the operations for substantially the same number of contributions base units for which the seller was obligated to contribute;

(B) The purchaser obtains a bond or places an amount in escrow, for a period of five plan years after the sale, in an amount equal to the greater of the seller's average required annual contribution to the plan for the three plan years preceding the year in which the sale occurred or the seller's required annual contribution for the plan year preceding the year in which the sale occurred (the amount of the bond or escrow is doubled if the plan is in reorganization in the year in which the sale occurred); and

(C) The contract of sale provides that if the purchaser withdraws from the plan within the first five plan years beginning after the sale and fails to pay any of its liability to the plan, the seller shall be secondarily liable for the liability it (the seller) would have had but for section 4204.

The bond or escrow described above would be paid to the plan if the purchaser withdraws from the plan or fails to make any required contributions to the plan within the first five plan years beginning after the sale.