

The NRC staff has determined that this amendment satisfies the criteria for a categorical exclusion in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared for this amendment.

USEC or any person whose interest may be affected may file a petition, not exceeding 30 pages, requesting review of the Director's Decision. The petition must be filed with the Commission not later than 15 days after publication of this Federal Register Notice. A petition for review of the Director's Decision shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner and how that interest may be affected by the results of the decision. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why review of the Decision should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The interest of the petitioner; (2) how that interest may be affected by the Decision, including the reasons why the petitioner should be permitted a review of the Decision; and (3) the petitioner's areas of concern about the activity that is the subject matter of the Decision. Any person described in this paragraph (USEC or any person who filed a petition) may file a response to any petition for review, not to exceed 30 pages, within 10 days after filing of the petition. If no petition is received within the designated 15-day period, the Director will issue the final amendment to the Certificate of Compliance without further delay. If a petition for review is received, the decision on the amendment application will become final in 60 days, unless the Commission grants the petition for review or otherwise acts within 60 days after publication of this Federal Register Notice.

A petition for review 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.

For further details with respect to the action see (1) the application for amendment and (2) the Commission's Compliance Evaluation Report. These items 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.

Date of amendment request: September 30, 1996.

Brief description of amendment: The amendment changes the Technical Safety Requirement for the cascade cell trip function and revises limiting specific values for battery performance.

Basis for finding of no significance:

1. The proposed amendment will not result in a change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite.

The proposed changes to TSR 2.4.4.12 and SAR section 3.9.1.3.2 provide limits for battery voltage and air circuit breaker air pressure, improve the surveillance requirements for measuring battery cell specific gravity, as well as improved bases for the limits. These changes provide improved assurance that the cell trip function will be available, if required. As such, these changes enhance the ability of the cascade trip function to deenergize the process motors ("tripping the cell"), thus bringing the cell below atmospheric pressure. By enhancing the ability to perform the cell trip function, the ability to mitigate the consequences of postulated accidents has been improved. As such, these changes have no impact on plant effluents and will not result in any impact to the environment.

2. The proposed amendment will not result in a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

The proposed changes provide enhanced assurance that the cell trip function will be available if necessary. The changes will not increase exposure.

3. The proposed amendment will not result in a significant construction impact.

The proposed changes will not result in any construction, therefore, there will be no construction impacts.

4. The proposed amendment will not result in a significant increase in the potential for, or radiological or chemical consequences from, previously analyzed accidents.

The proposed changes enhance the availability of the cascade cell trip function and affect no other equipment functions. The cascade cell trip function is not involved in any precursor to an evaluated accident; therefore, the potential of occurrence of an evaluated event is unaffected. The cell trip function is involved in the mitigation of the consequences of previously evaluated accidents by deenergizing the process motors, thus bringing the cell below atmospheric pressure. Revising the limiting specific values for battery performance and the air pressure requirements for the "000" air circuit breakers enhances the ability of the cell

trip function by ensuring that adequate DC voltage and air pressure are available to effect cell trip. Since the proposed changes provide enhanced assurance that the function will be available if required, the consequences of previously evaluated accidents are not increased.

5. The proposed amendment will not result in the possibility of a new or different kind of accident.

The proposed changes establish new operating limits for plant equipment that are within the existing operating ranges of that equipment. The changes create no new operating conditions or new plant configuration that could lead to a new or different type of accident.

6. The proposed amendment will not result in a significant reduction in any margin of safety.

The minimum air pressures and battery voltages established by these proposed changes are within the existing operating ranges of the equipment and have been increased to enhance the cell trip function, which is the only safety function affected by these parameters. The proposed changes cause no reductions in the margins of safety.

7. The proposed amendment will not result in an overall decrease in the effectiveness of the plant's safety, safeguards or security programs.

The proposed changes enhance the availability of the cascade cell trip function and do not affect any other equipment functions or administrative requirements. The cell trip function is not addressed in the safeguards and security programs. The effectiveness of the safety, safeguards, and security programs is not decreased.

Effective date: 60 days after issuance.

Certificate of Compliance No. GDP-1: Amendment will revise the Technical Safety Requirements.

Local Public Document Room location: Paducah Public Library, 555 Washington Street, Paducah, Kentucky 42003.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of February 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Carl J. Paperiello,
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-3323 Filed 2-10-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of February 10, 17, 24, and March 3, 1997.

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

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of February 10

Thursday, February 13

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on Operating Reactor Oversight Program and Status of Improvements in NRC Inspection Program (Public Meeting)

(Contact: Bill Borchardt, 301-415-1257)

3:30 p.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)

*(Please Note: These items will be affirmed immediately following the conclusion of the preceding meeting.)

a: Louisiana Energy Services (Claiborne Enrichment Center); Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Partial Initial Decision (Resolving Contentions J.4, K, and Q), LBP-96-25.

Week of February 17—Tentative

Tuesday, February 18

1:00 p.m.

Briefing on BPR Project on Redesigned Materials Licensing Process (Public Meeting)

(Contact: Don Cool, 301-415-7197)

2:30 p.m.

Briefing on Analysis of Quantifying Plant Watch List Indicators (Public Meeting)

(Contact: Rich Barrett, 301-415-7482)

Wednesday, February 19

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on Millstone and Maine Yankee Lessons Learned (Public Meeting)

(Contact: Steve Stein, 301-415-1296)

3:30 p.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Thursday, February 20

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on EEO Program (Public Meeting)

(Contact: Ed Tucker, 301-415-7382)

Week of February 24—Tentative

Wednesday, February 26

11:30 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Week of March 3—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of March 3.

*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.

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 (301-415-1661).

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 wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: February 7, 1997.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-3500 Filed 2-7-97; 1:40 p.m.]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

Final Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of Vermont

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise the public of the issuance of a Final Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Vermont. The MOU provides the basis for mutually agreeable procedures whereby the State of Vermont may utilize the NRC Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) to receive data during an emergency at a commercial nuclear power plant in Vermont. Public comments were addressed in conjunction with the MOU with the State of Michigan published in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 28, February 11, 1992.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This MOU is effective December 10, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Copies of all NRC documents are available for public inspection and copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W. (Lower Level), Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John R. Jolicoeur or Eric D. Weinstein, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone (301) 415-6402 or (301) 415-7559.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The attached MOU is intended to formalize and define the manner in which the NRC will cooperate with the State of Vermont to provide data related to plant conditions during emergencies at commercial nuclear power plants in Vermont.

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

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Denwood F. Ross, Jr.,

Acting Director, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data.

Agreement Pertaining to the Emergency Response Data System Between the State of Vermont and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

I. Authority

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Vermont enter into this Agreement under the authority of Section 274i of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

The State of Vermont recognizes the Federal Government, primarily the NRC, as having the exclusive authority and responsibility to regulate the radiological and national security aspects of the construction and operation of nuclear production or utilization facilities, except for certain authority over air emissions granted to States by the Clean Air Act.

II. Background

A. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, authorize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to license and regulate, among other activities, the manufacture, construction, and operation of utilization facilities (nuclear power plants) in order to assure common defense and security and to protect the public health and safety. Under these statutes, the NRC is the responsible agency regulating nuclear power plant safety.

B. NRC believes that its mission to protect the public health and safety can be served by a policy of cooperation with the State governments and has formally adopted a policy statement on "Cooperation with States at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants and Other Nuclear Production or Utilization Facilities" (54 FR 7530, February 22, 1989). The policy statement provides that NRC will consider State proposals to enter into instruments of cooperation for certain programs when these programs have provisions to ensure close cooperation with NRC. This agreement is intended to be consistent with, and implement the provisions of the NRC's policy statement.

C. NRC fulfills its statutory mandate to regulate nuclear power plant safety by, among other things, responding to emergencies at the licensee's facilities and monitoring the status and adequacy