

prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letter dated May 4, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of July, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Jon B. Hopkins,**

*Acting Chief, Section 2, Project Directorate III, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18634 Filed 7-20-99; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-320]

### GPU Nuclear, Inc. Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50 for Facility Operating License No. DPR-73, issued to GPU Nuclear, Inc. (GPUN or the licensee), for operation of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI-2), located in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

#### Environmental Assessment

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

The proposed action would reduce the amount of onsite property insurance as required by 10 CFR 50.54(w), based on the permanently shutdown status of TMI-2 and that the plant is in a safe, inherently stable condition suitable for long-term management and any threat to the health and safety of the public has been eliminated. The requested action would allow GPUN to reduce onsite insurance coverage from \$1.6 billion to \$50 million.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated March 9, 1999.

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

The proposed action is needed because the licensee's required insurance coverage significantly exceeds the potential cost consequences of radiological incidents possible at a permanently shutdown and defueled reactor with over 99 percent of the fuel removed.

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

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the issuance of the proposed exemption is an administrative action and will not have any environmental impact. TMI-2 permanently ceased operations following the March 28, 1979, accident. The licensee maintains the facility in a safe, stable configuration to comply with the facility operating license and the Commission's rules and regulations.

No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluents that may be released offsite. There is no increase in occupational or public 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 not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

#### *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

The principal alternative to the action would be to deny the request thereby requiring the licensee to maintain insurance coverage required of an operating plant (i.e., the "no action" alternative); such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment. 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 Programmatic Final Environmental Statement Related to Decontamination and Disposal of Radioactive Wastes Resulting from the March 28, 1979, Accident—Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Supplement No. 3, issued in August 1989.

#### *Agencies and Persons Contacted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 3, 1999, the NRC staff consulted with Pennsylvania State official, Stan Miangi of the Pennsylvania Department

of Environmental Protection regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant impact 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 March 9, 1999, 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 Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of July, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Suzanne C. Black,**

*Deputy Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18633 Filed 7-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311]

### Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, issued to the Public Service Electric and Gas Company (the licensee), for operation of the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Salem County, New Jersey.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### *Identification of Proposed Action*

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated February 2, 1999, as supplemented on April 26, 1999, for proposed amendments to the Technical Specifications (TS) to change the maximum unirradiated fuel assembly enrichment value for new fuel storage from 4.5 to 5.0 weight percent Uranium-

235 and to allow the use of equivalent criticality control to that provided by the current TS requirement of 2.35 milligrams of Boron-10 per linear inch loading in the Integral Fuel Burnable Absorber pins.

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

The licensee intends, in the future, to use the more highly enriched fuel to achieve higher energy core reloads which can contribute substantially to improved capacity factors for the spent fuel pool by decreasing the cumulative amount of fuel stored during the lifetime of the plant. Currently, TS 5.6, "Fuel Storage, Criticality," limits the storage of fuel to an enrichment of 4.3 weight percent U-235. Thus, the proposed change to the TS was requested.

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

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the storage and use of fuel enriched with U-235 up to 5.0 weight percent at Salem Units 1 and 2 is acceptable. The safety considerations associated with higher enrichments have been evaluated by the staff, and the staff has concluded that such changes would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed changes have no adverse effect on the probability of any accident. There will be no change to the authorized power level. There is no change to the allowable fuel burnup (60,000 MWD/MTU) already approved for Salem Units 1 and 2. As a result, there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative radiation exposure.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment fuel and extended irradiation are discussed in the staff assessment entitled, "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation." This assessment was published in the **Federal Register** on August 11, 1988 (53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322), in connection with the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5.0 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits up to 60,000 MWD/MTU are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed amendments for Salem Units 1 and 2.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed changes involve systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with this action.

#### *Alternative to the Proposed Action*

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). 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 Salem Nuclear Generating Station dated April 1973.

#### *Agencies and Persons Contacted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 22, 1999, the staff consulted with the New Jersey State official, Mr. Dennis Zannoni, Chief, Bureau of Nuclear Engineering, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon the foregoing 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 amendments.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for the amendments dated February 2, 1999, as supplemented on April 26, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC, and at the local public

document room located at the Salem Free Public Library, 112 West Broadway, Salem, NJ 08079.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of July, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Singh S. Bajwa,**

*Chief, Section 1, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18632 Filed 7-20-99; 8:45 am]

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## **OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

### **Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory Personnel Demonstration Project at the Naval Sea Systems Command Warfare Centers**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of amendment to expand coverage of all provisions of the Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Surface Warfare Center and Naval Undersea Warfare Center personnel demonstration project to include employees of the Naval Warfare Assessment Station (NWAS).

**SUMMARY:** Public Law 103-337, October 5, 1994, permits the Department of Defense (DOD), with the approval of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), to carry out personnel demonstration projects at DOD Science and Technology (S&T) Reinvention Laboratories. This notice identifies the expanded coverage of the Naval Sea Systems Command, Naval Surface Warfare Center and Naval Undersea Warfare Center personnel demonstration project to include employees of the Naval Warfare Assessment Station (NWAS). This notice also serves to clarify provisions of the Warfare Centers' final demonstration project plan published in the December 3, 1997, **Federal Register** Notice.

**DATES:** This notice may be implemented July 21, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Warfare Centers: Shirley Scott, NSWC/NUWC Deputy Demonstration Project Manager, NSWCDD, HR Department, 17320 Dahlgren Road, Dahlgren, VA 22448, 540-653-4623.

OPM: John André, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 7460, Washington, DC 20415, 202-606-1255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OPM has approved "Science and Technology Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Projects" and published