

not required for a permanently shutdown and defueled plant after the time that air cooling of the spent fuel is sufficient to maintain the integrity of the fuel cladding. As previously noted, the staff finds that sufficient time has elapsed to ensure the integrity of the ZNPS spent fuel cladding.

#### IV

The NRC staff has completed its review of the licensee's request to reduce financial protection limits to \$50 million for onsite property insurance and \$100 million for offsite liability insurance. On the basis of its review, the NRC staff finds that the spent fuel stored in the Zion Nuclear Power Station's SPF is no longer susceptible to rapid zirconium oxidation. The requested reductions are consistent with SECY 96-256. The licensee's proposed financial protection limits will provide sufficient insurance to recover from limiting hypothetical events, if they occur. Thus, the underlying purposes of the regulations will not be adversely affected by the reductions in insurance coverage.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), an exemption to reduce onsite property insurance to \$50 million is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Further, special circumstances are present, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). Therefore the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w).

In addition, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 140.8, an exemption to reduce primary offsite liability insurance to \$100 million, accompanied by withdrawal from the secondary insurance pool for offsite liability insurance, is authorized by law and is in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 140.11(a)(4).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (64 FR 69806).

These exemptions are effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Suzanne C. Black,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-33683 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

#### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

##### Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel

**[Docket No. 40-8027-MLA-4; ASLBP No. 99-770-09-MLA]**

##### Sequoyah Fuels Corporation, Gore, OK Site; Decommissioning; Notice of Hearing

December 22, 1999.

This proceeding involves a proposed amendment by Sequoyah Fuels Corporation to its Source Material License No. SUB-1010, to authorize restricted decommissioning of its site near Gore, Oklahoma. The proposal under review, currently denominated as the Second Revised Site Decommissioning Plan (SRSDP), was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 26, 1999 and seeks authority to decommission the facility based on restricted release pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1403.

Notice is hereby given that, by Memorandum and Order dated December 16, 1999, LBP-99-46, the Presiding Officer has granted the request for a hearing submitted by the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma. Parties to this proceeding are the Licensee, Sequoyah Fuels Corporation; the State of Oklahoma; and the Staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

This proceeding will be conducted under the Commission's informal hearing procedures set forth in 10 CFR, Part 2, Subpart L. In response to a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, published at 64 Fed. Reg. 31023 (June 9, 1999), the State of Oklahoma submitted a request for a hearing. On July 27, 1999, Administrative Judge Charles Bechhoefer was designated Presiding Officer, to rule on petitions for leave to intervene and/or requests for a hearing and, if necessary, to serve as the Presiding Officer to conduct an informal adjudicatory proceeding. Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.722 and 2.1209, Administrative Judge Thomas D. Murphy was appointed to assist the Presiding Officer in taking evidence and in preparing a suitable record for review. 64 FR 42154 (August 3, 1999).

During the course of this proceeding, the Presiding Officer, pursuant to 10

CFR 2.1211(a), will entertain limited appearance statements from any member of the public who is not a party to the proceeding, for the purpose of stating his or her views on the issues involved in this proceeding. Although these statements are not evidence and do not become part of the decisional record, they may assist the Presiding Officer and parties in their consideration of matters at issue in this proceeding. Limited appearance statements should be made in writing. If the Presiding Officer conducts an oral argument or in-person prehearing conference, the Presiding Officer may at his discretion hear oral statements, at a time and location yet to be determined. Written statements, and requests to make oral statements, should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. A copy of such statement or request should also be served on the Presiding Officer, T3 F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, or CXB2@nrc.gov.

Documents related to this proceeding, issued prior to December 1, 1999, are available in print form for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), 2120 L St. NW, Washington, D.C. Documents issued subsequent to November 1, 1999 are available electronically through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), with access to the public through NRC's Internet Web site (Public Electronic Reading Room Link, <<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>>). The PDR and the majority of public libraries have terminals for public access to the Internet.

Rockville, Maryland, December 22, 1999.

**Charles Bechhoefer,**

*Presiding Officer, Administrative Judge.*

[FR Doc. 99-33678 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

#### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**[Docket Nos. 50-237 and 50-249]**

##### Commonwealth Edison Company; Dresden Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations regarding Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-19 and DPR-25 issued to the

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee), for operation of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3, located in Grundy County, Illinois.

### Environmental Assessment

#### *Identification of Proposed Action*

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from certain emergency lighting requirements of 10 CFR part 50, Appendix R, Section III.J, applicable to Dresden, Units 2 and 3. The exemption will allow the use of hand-held portable lights to provide lighting for outdoor access and egress routes between the main power block, the isolation condenser pumphouse, the cribhouse, the clean demineralized water storage tank, and for reading the clean demineralized water storage tank level instrument.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated November 19, 1998.

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

Equipment needed for safe shutdown at Dresden, Units 2 and 3, is maintained inside the main power block and several buildings onsite. However, access and egress between these buildings, the clean demineralized water storage tank (CDST), and the main power block requires walking outdoors. These outdoor areas are normally lit by outdoor lighting powered by offsite power or emergency power from the security diesel. This installed outdoor and security lighting does not meet the Appendix R requirements for an 8-hour battery power supply.

Implementation of outdoor battery powered lighting units to meet Appendix R requirements would result in expenditure of engineering, construction, and plant resources for their installation, maintenance, and operation. The requested exemption from the requirements of Appendix R, Section III.J, would allow the use of hand-held portable lights, in the event that sufficient daylight or security lighting is not available, when transiting access and egress routes between the main power block, the isolation condenser pumphouse, the cribhouse, and the CDST, including reading the CDST level instrument. The exemption is needed to avoid the unnecessary expenditure of resources.

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

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that with the availability of hand-held battery-powered portable lights for use

during transit between these site structures and for reading the CDST level instrument, the installation of emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery supply for these transit routes and the CDST level instrument is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR part 50.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC 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 exemption 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 Statements for Dresden, Units 2 and 3.

#### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 8, 1999, the staff consulted with the Illinois official, Mr. Frank Niziolek of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, 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 NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letter dated November 19, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of December 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Anthony J. Mendiola,**

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

[FR Doc. 99-33679 Filed 12-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Public Workshop To Develop a Standard Review Plan for Decommissioning

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a public workshop the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is sponsoring to solicit input from stakeholders during the development of a Standard Review Plan (SRP) and other guidance for decommissioning nuclear facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 21, 1998, NRC announced that it was sponsoring a series of public workshops to support the staff's development of an SRP and other guidance for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities. On November 18, 1998, NRC published the schedule for these workshops and indicated that a workshop would be held on October 20-21, 1999, at NRC Headquarters, at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. On September 8, 1999, NRC staff announced that it was postponing the October workshop until February 2000. The new date for the workshop is February 18 and 19, 2000. The workshop will be held at the NRC Headquarters in the Two Flint North Auditorium, at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD. The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. on both days.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dominick A. Orlando, Decommissioning Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415-6749.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of December 1999.