

Appendix J specifies the leakage test requirements, schedules, and acceptance criteria for tests of the leak tight integrity of the primary reactor containment and systems and components which penetrate the containment. Option B, Section III.A requires that the overall integrated leak rate must not exceed the allowable leakage (La) with margin, as specified in the Technical Specifications (TS). The overall integrated leak rate, as specified in the 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J definitions, includes the contribution from main steam isolation valve (MSIV) leakage. By letter dated September 28, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated February 4, 2000, the licensee has requested exemption from Option B, Section III.A, requirements to permit exclusion of MSIV leakage from the overall integrated leak rate test measurement.

Option B, Section III.B of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J requires that the sum of the leakage rates of all Type B and Type C local leak rate tests be less than the performance criterion (La) with margin, as specified in the TS. The licensee also requests exemption from this requirement, to permit exclusion of the MSIV contribution to the sum of the Type B and Type C tests.

The MSIV leakage effluent has a different pathway to the environment. It is not directed into the secondary containment and filtered through the standby gas treatment system as is other containment leakage. Instead, the MSIV leakage is directed through the main steam drain piping into the condenser and is released to the environment as an unfiltered ground level effluent. The licensee analyzed the MSIV leakage pathway for the increased leakage (from 46 scfh to 168 scfh), and the containment leakage pathway separately in a dose consequences analysis. The calculated radiological consequences of the combined leakages were found to be within the criteria of 10 CFR part 100 and GDC-19. The staff reviewed the licensee's analyses and found them acceptable as described in a safety analysis accompanying amendments to be issued concurrently with this exemption. By separating the MSIV leakage acceptance criteria from the overall integrated leak rate test criteria, and from the Type B and C leakage sum limitation, the BFN-2 and BFN-3 containment leakage testing program will be made more consistent with the limiting assumptions used in the associated accident consequences analyses. The amendments associated with this exemption will revise Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 3.6.1.3.10 to limit the

maximum allowable combined MSIV leakage to 150 scfm, which is less than the analytical limit of 168 scfm. Therefore, the staff finds the proposed exemptions from Appendix J to separate MSIV leakage from other containment leakage to be acceptable.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 when (1) The exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security, and (2) When special circumstances are present. Special circumstances are present whenever, according to 10 CFR part 50.12(a)(2)(ii), "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule * * *"

The licensee's exemption request was submitted in conjunction with a TS amendment application to increase the allowable leak rate for MSIVs. (The proposed amendment will be issued concurrently with this exemption.) The exemption and amendments together would implement the recommendations of Topical Report NEDC-31858, "BWR Report for Increasing MSIV Leakage Rate Limits and Elimination of Leakage Control Systems." The topical report was evaluated by the staff and accepted in a safety evaluation dated March 3, 1999. The special circumstances associated with MSIV leakage testing are fully described in the topical report. These circumstances relate to the monetary costs and personnel radiation exposure involved with maintaining MSIV leakage limits more restrictive than necessary to meet offsite dose criteria and control room habitability criteria.

The underlying purpose of the rule which implements Appendix J (*i.e.*, 10 CFR 50.54(o)) is to assure that containment leak tight integrity is maintained (a) As tight as reasonably achievable and (b) Sufficiently tight so as to limit effluent release to values bounded by the analyses of radiological consequences of design basis accidents. The staff has determined that the intent of the rule is not compromised by the proposed action.

IV

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR part 50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not present an undue

risk to the public health and safety, and that there are special circumstances present, as specified in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2). An exemption is hereby granted from the requirements of Sections III.A and III.B of Option B of Appendix J to 10 CFR part 50. The exemption allows exclusion of MSIV leakage from the overall integrated leak rate test measurement and from the sum of Type B and C test measurements used to determine compliance with TS surveillance requirements for containment integrity.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (65 FR 10844).

This exemption is effective upon issuance and will be implemented prior to startup of Cycle 12 for Browns Ferry Unit 2 and prior to startup of Cycle 10 for Browns Ferry Unit 3.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 14th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

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

[FR Doc. 00-7100 Filed 3-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Public Meeting on 10 CFR Part 70; Standard Review Plan

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: NRC will host a public meeting in Rockville, Maryland. The meeting will provide an opportunity for discussion of stakeholder comments on the revised Standard Review Plan (SRP) chapters that were made available during March and April 2000. The revised chapters can be reviewed on the internet at the following website: <http://techconf.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/library/?=&library=>

PURPOSE: This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss any comments on the staff's recently revised SRP chapters.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday through Wednesday, April 18 and 19, 2000, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. The meeting is open to the public.

ADDRESSES: NRC's Auditorium at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Visitor parking around the NRC building is

limited; however, the meeting site is located adjacent to the White Flint Station on the Metro Red Line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theodore S. Sherr, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone: (301) 415-7190, e-mail tss@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 16th day of March, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Theodore S. Sherr,

Chief, Licensing and International Safeguards Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS.

[FR Doc. 00-7102 Filed 3-21-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

I. Background

Pursuant to Public Law 97-415, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. Public Law 97-415 revised section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to require the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, under a new provision of section 189 of the Act. This provision grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued from February 26, 2000, through March 10, 2000. The last biweekly notice was published on March 8, 2000 (65 FR 12286).

Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the following amendment requests involve no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the

proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The basis for this proposed determination for each amendment request is shown below.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received before action is taken. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. The filing of requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By April 21, 2000, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the

proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to 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 electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room). 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 a 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