

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the modifications to TSs are administrative in nature.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, 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 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 NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives 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 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 13, 1999, the staff consulted with the Vermont State official, William Sherman, of the Vermont Department of Public Service 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee’s letter

dated October 21, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission’s Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publically 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 5th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard P. Croteau,

Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice**

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards will hold a meeting on February 3-5, 2000, in Conference Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The date of this meeting was previously published in the **Federal Register** on Thursday, October 14, 1999 (64 FR 55787).

Thursday, February 3, 2000

8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.: Technical Aspects Associated with the Revised Reactor Oversight Process and Related Matters (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the technical aspects associated with the revised reactor oversight process, including the updated significance determination process, plant performance indicators, and related matters.

11 a.m.-12 Noon: Proposed Final Amendment to 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73 (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) regarding the proposed final amendment to 10 CFR 50.72, “Immediate Notification Requirements for Operating Nuclear

Power Reactors,” and 50.73, “Licensee Event Report System.”

1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Proposed Regulatory Guide and Associated NEI Document 96-07, “Guidelines for 10 CFR 50.59 Safety Evaluations” (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and NEI regarding the proposed Regulatory Guide, which endorses guidance in NEI 96-07, associated with the implementation of the revised 10 CFR 50.59 process.

2:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.: Proposed Revision of the Commission’s Safety Goal Policy Statement for Reactors (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding proposed revision of the Commission’s Safety Goal Policy Statement for reactors and related matters, including industry views.

4:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.: Break and Preparation of Draft ACRS Reports (Open)—Cognizant ACRS members will prepare draft reports for consideration by the full Committee.

5:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m.: Discussion of Proposed ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on matters considered during this meeting. In addition, the Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on: Low-Power and Shutdown Operations Risk Insights Report; License Renewal Process; and Response to Follow-up Questions Resulting from the ACRS Meeting with the Commission on November 4, 1999.

Friday, February 4, 2000

8:30 a.m.-8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:35 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Impediments to the Increased Use of Risk-Informed Regulation and Use of Importance Measures in Risk-Informing 10 CFR Part 50 (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of NEI, the NRC staff as needed, and invited experts regarding impediments associated with the increased use of risk-informed regulation and use of importance measures in risk-informing 10 CFR Part 50, and related matters.

10:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: Proposed Final Revision of Appendix K to 10 CFR Part 50 (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the proposed

final revision of Appendix K, "ECCS Evaluation Models," to 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities."

11:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.: Subcommittee Report (Open)—The Committee will hear a report by the Chairman of the Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment Subcommittee regarding matters discussed during the December 15–16, 1999 meeting.

11:45 a.m.–12:00 Noon: Report of the Joint ACRS/ACNW Subcommittee—
The Committee will hear a report on matters discussed during the January 13–14, 2000 meeting of the Joint ACRS/ACNW Subcommittee.

1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.: NRC Safety Research Program Report to the Commission (Open)—The Committee will discuss the proposed final report to the Commission on the NRC Safety Research Program and related matters.

3:15 p.m.–3:30 p.m.: Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations (Open)—The Committee will discuss the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations (EDO) to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters. The EDO responses are expected to be made available to the Committee prior to the meeting.

3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.: Future ACRS Activities (Open)—The Committee will discuss the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the full Committee during future meetings.

3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m.: Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee (Open)—The Committee will hear a report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee on matters related to the conduct of ACRS business.

4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.: Break and Preparation of Draft ACRS Reports (Open)—Cognizant ACRS members will prepare draft reports for consideration by the full Committee.

5:30 p.m.–7:15 p.m.: Discussion of Proposed ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports.

Saturday, February 5, 2000

8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.: Discussion of Proposed ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports.

2 p.m.–2:30 p.m.: Miscellaneous (Open)—The Committee will discuss matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings,

as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on September 28, 1999 (64 FR 52353). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written views may be presented by members of the public, including representatives of the nuclear industry. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during the open portions of the meeting and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify Mr. Sam Duraiswamy, ACRS, five days before the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman.

Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting Mr. Sam Duraiswamy prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS 5 meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with Mr. Sam Duraiswamy if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled 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 Mr. Sam Duraiswamy (telephone 301/415-7364), between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., EST.

ACRS meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available for downloading or viewing on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACRS meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACRS meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACRS Audio Visual Technician (301-415-8066), between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. EST at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment facilities that they use to establish the videoteleconferencing link. The availability of videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

Dated: January 5, 2000.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on January 27–29, 2000, Radisson Suite Resort, Cedarwood #2 Room, 1201 Gulf Boulevard, Clearwater, Florida.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Thursday, January 27, 2000—8:30 a.m. Until the Conclusion of Business

The Subcommittee will discuss issues related to PRA quality, including development of industrial standards; use of importance measures in risk-informing 10 CFR Part 50; impediments to the increased use of risk-informed regulation; technical aspects of the revised reactor oversight process, including technical adequacy of the current and proposed performance indicators; and safety culture.

Friday, January 28, 2000—8:30 a.m. Until the Conclusion of Business

The Subcommittee will discuss best estimate computer codes, technical quality of codes, and how they are used at the NRC. It will also discuss industry views of ACRS activities, self-assessment of ACRS performance in CY 1999, potential operational areas for improved effectiveness, other activities related to the conduct of ACRS business, and proposed response to follow-up questions resulting from the ACRS meeting with the Commission on November 4, 1999.

Saturday, January 29, 2000—8:30 a.m. Until 12:00 Noon

The Subcommittee will discuss ACRS positions on PRA issues, technical adequacy of the current and proposed performance indicators for the revised reactor oversight process, and potential future ACRS review activities.