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Laura S. Nelson,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-27139 Filed 10-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7536-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 14, 2000, the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of permit applications received. A permit was issued on October 13, 2000 to the following applicant: Maria Stenzel, Permit No. 2001-022.

Nadene G. Kennedy,

Permit Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-27161 Filed 10-20-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-298]

Nebraska Public Power District; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) to withdraw its June 15, 1999, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station located in Nemaha County, Nebraska.

The proposed amendment would have revised the facility updated safety analysis report on the containment overpressure contribution to emergency core cooling system pump net positive suction head requirement post-loss-of-coolant accident.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on July 14, 1999 (64 FR 38031). However, by letter dated June 14, 2000, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated June 15, 1999, and the licensee's letter dated June 14, 2000 (Accession No. ML003724841), which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the Adams Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of October 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mohan C. Thadani,

Senior Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-27177 Filed 10-20-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251]

Florida Power and Light Company, Turkey Point Plant, Units 3 and 4; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix G, for Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-31 and DPR-41, issued to Florida Power and Light Company (FPL, the licensee), for operation of the Turkey Point Plant, Units 3 and 4, located in Dade County, Florida.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would allow FPL to apply the methodologies of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Cases N-588 and N-641 for the Turkey Point Plant reactor vessel circumferential welds.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated July 7, 2000, as supplemented October 4, 2000.

The Need for the Proposed Action

10 CFR part 50, Appendix G, requires that pressure-temperature (P/T) limits be established for reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) during normal operating and hydrostatic pressure or leak-testing conditions. Specifically, 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G states that "The appropriate requirements on both the pressure-temperature limits and the minimum permissible temperature must be met for all conditions." Appendix G further specifies that the requirements for these limits are the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix G Limits.

To address provisions of amendments to the technical specification (TS) P/T limits, low temperature overpressure protection (LTOP) system setpoints and LTOP system effective temperature (T_{enable}), the licensee requested in its submittals that the staff exempt Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 from application of specific requirements of 10 CFR part 50, Section 50.60(a) and Appendix G, and substitute use of ASME Code Cases N-588 and N-641. Code Case N-588 permits the use of circumferentially-oriented flaws in circumferential welds for development of P/T limits. Code Case N-641 permits the use of an alternate reference fracture toughness (K_{IC} fracture toughness curve instead of K_{Ia} fracture toughness curve) for reactor vessel materials in determining the P/T limits, LTOP setpoints and T_{enable} . Since the K_{IC} fracture toughness curve shown in ASME Section XI, Appendix A, Figure A-2200-1, provides greater allowable fracture toughness than the corresponding K_{Ia} fracture toughness curve of ASME Section XI, Appendix G, Figure G-2210-1 (the K_{Ia} fracture toughness curve), using Code Case N-641 for establishing the P/T limits, LTOP setpoints and T_{enable} would be less conservative than the methodology currently endorsed by 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G and, therefore, an exemption to apply the Code Case would be required by 10 CFR 50.60. It should be noted that although the use of the K_{IC} fracture toughness curve in Code Case N-641 was recently incorporated into the Appendix G to Section XI of the ASME Code, an exemption is still needed because the proposed P/T limits, LTOP setpoints and T_{enable} (excluding Code Case N-641) are based on the 1996 edition (and 1997 addenda) of the ASME Code.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, Appendix G, to allow

utilization of Code Cases N-588 and N-641 would provide an adequate margin of safety against brittle failure of the Turkey Point reactor vessels.

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 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 (that is, 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 Turkey Point Plant, Units 3 and 4.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 10, 2000, the staff consulted with the Florida State official, William A. Passetti of the Bureau of Radiation Control, 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 July 7, 2000, as supplemented October 4, 2000. Documents may be

examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. 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 17th day of October 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard P. Correia,

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

[FR Doc. 00-27178 Filed 10-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Payment of Premiums

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of request for extension of OMB approval.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") extend approval, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of the collection of information under its regulation on Payment of Premiums (29 CFR Part 4007), including Form 1-ES, Form 1, and Schedule A to Form 1, and related instructions (OMB control number 1212-0009; expires December 31, 2000). The collection of information also includes a certification (on Schedule A) of compliance with requirements to provide certain notices to participants under the PBGC's regulation on Disclosure to Participants (29 CFR Part 4011).

DATES: Comments should be submitted by November 22, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC 20503. The request for extension will be available for public inspection at the Communications and Public Affairs Department of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, suite 240, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on business days.

Copies of the collection of information may be obtained without

charge by writing to the PBGC's Communications and Public Affairs Department at the address given above or calling 202-326-4040. (For TTY and TDD, call 800-877-8339 and request connection to 202-326-4040.) The premium payment regulation can be accessed on the PBGC's home page at www.pbgc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Deborah C. Murphy, Attorney, or Harold J. Ashner, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-4026, 202-326-4024. (For TTY and TDD, call 800-877-8339 and request connection to 202-326-4024.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4007 of Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") requires the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") to collect premiums from pension plans covered under Title IV pension insurance programs. Pursuant to ERISA section 4007, the PBGC has issued its regulation on Payment of Premiums (29 CFR Part 4007). Section 4007.3 of the premium payment regulation requires plans, in connection with the payment of premiums, to file certain forms prescribed by the PBGC, and § 4007.10 requires plans to retain and make available to the PBGC records supporting or validating the computation of premiums paid.

The forms prescribed are PBGC Form 1-ES and Form 1 and (for single-employer plans only) Schedule A to Form 1. Form 1-ES is issued, with instructions, in the PBGC's Estimated Premium Payment Package. Form 1 and Schedule A are issued, with instructions, in the PBGC's Annual Premium Payment Package.

The premium forms are needed to determine the amount and record the payment of PBGC premiums, and the submission of forms and retention and submission of records are needed to enable the PBGC to perform premium audits. The plan administrator of each pension plan covered by Title IV of ERISA is required to file one or more of the premium payment forms each year. The PBGC uses the information on the premium payment forms to identify the plans paying premiums and to verify whether plans are paying the correct amounts. That information and the retained records are used for audit purposes.

In addition, section 4011 of ERISA and the PBGC's regulation on Disclosure to Participants (29 CFR Part 4011) require plan administrators of certain underfunded single-employer pension