

greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. 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 Operation of Big Rock Point Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 3, 1995, the staff consulted with the Michigan State official, Mr. Dennis Hahn of the Nuclear Facilities and Environmental Monitoring Section, Office of the Department of Public Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official has no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated October 4, 1994, as supplemented by letter dated September 27, 1995, which are 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 North Central Michigan College, 1515 Howard Street, Petoskey, Michigan 49770.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of November 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John B. Hickman,

*Acting Director, Project Directorate III-I,
Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 95-27917 Filed 11-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Availability of NRC Iterative Performance Assessment Phase 2: Development of Capabilities for Review of a Performance Assessment for a High-Level Waste Repository

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the availability of NUREG-1464, "NRC Iterative Performance Assessment (IPA) Phase 2: Development of Capabilities for Review of a Performance Assessment for a High-Level Waste Repository."

ADDRESSES: Copies of NUREG-1464 can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7082. Copies are also available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. A copy of NUREG-1464 is also available for public inspection and/or copying at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street (Lower Level), NW., Washington, DC 20555-0001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael P. Lee, Performance Assessment and Hydrology Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, MD 20852-2738. Telephone: (301) 415-6677.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This report describes the results of the second phase of the development of the NRC staff's capability to review a performance assessment for a geologic repository. This capability, developed with the assistance of its contractor (the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses—the CNWRA), helps the NRC staff assess whether the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) site characterization activities are adequate, during the pre-licensing phase, and, later, will help the staff review a license application for the potential geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and other high-level radioactive waste (HLW) at Yucca Mountain, NV.

As its name indicates, IPA involves repeated iterations directed at improving both the NRC staff's capability for reviewing DOE's demonstration of repository performance and the staff's understanding of combined systems and events and processes that are key to repository performance. In addition, IPA is intended to support timely feedback to DOE on their licensing strategy, site characterization, and design programs. Performance assessment of a geologic repository, like other systematic safety-assessment methodologies, benefits substantially by being conducted in an iterative manner, primarily because the lessons learned regarding modeling improvements, data needs, and

methodology can be addressed in subsequent iterations.

The IPA Phase 2 demonstration made use of the scenario selection procedure developed by Sandia National Laboratories and modified by the NRC staff to provide a set of scenarios, with corresponding probabilities, for use in the consequence analysis of a potential HLW disposal site in unsaturated tuff. Models of release of radionuclides from the waste form and transport in ground water, air and by direct pathways provided preliminary estimates of releases to the accessible environment for a 10,000 year period. The input values of parameters necessary for the consequence models were sampled numerous times using Latin Hypercube Sampling from probability distributions. The results from the consequence models were then used to generate Complementary Cumulative Distribution Functions (CCDFs) for either normalized radionuclide release to the accessible environment or effective dose equivalents to a target population. CCDFs were calculated for probabilistically significant combinations (scenarios) of four disruptive events; exploratory drilling, pluvial climate, seismicity, and magmatism. Sensitivity and uncertainty analyses of the calculated releases and effective dose equivalents were also used to determine the importance of the parameters.

Because of the preliminary nature of the analysis and data base, the results and conclusions presented in NUREG-1464 should be carefully interpreted. They should not be misconstrued to represent the actual performance of the proposed Yucca Mountain repository nor serve as an endorsement of the methods used.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of October 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John H. Austin,

*Chief, Performance Assessment and
Hydrology Branch, Division of Waste
Management, Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 95-27918 Filed 11-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P