

present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If the amendment is issued before the expiration of the 30-day hearing period, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, the final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitioners are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 284-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to Gail H. Marcus: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Jay E. Silberg, Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1) (i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated February 27, 1996, which is 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 Perry Public Library, 3753 Main Street, Perry, Ohio.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of February 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Linda L. Gundrum,

Project Manager, Project Directorate III-3, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 96-5206 Filed 3-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket No. 50-271]

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approving disposal in place of slightly contaminated soil located beneath existing plant structures at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VYNPS), pursuant to 10 CFR 20.2002, as requested by the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee). VYNPS is located in Windham County, Vermont.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would approve disposal in place of slightly contaminated soil placed at its present location beneath existing plant structures during original plant construction.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated November 18, 1991, as supplemented by letter dated July 10, 1992.

The Need for the Proposed Action

During plant operation, a leak from a chemistry sample sink drain released small amounts of radioactive contamination to soil located beneath existing plant structures. The licensee proposes to dispose of the contaminated soil in its present location.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed disposition of the soil in its current location will minimize the risk of unexpected exposure.

The change 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 the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or 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 for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 21, 1995, the staff consulted with the Vermont State official, Mr. William K. Sherman of the Vermont Department of Public Service, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official questioned the impact of the proposed action on decommissioning of VYNPS. At the time of decommissioning, the licensee will be required to demonstrate that the activity levels on the site are sufficiently low to permit releasing the site for general use.

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 November 18, 1991, as supplemented by letter dated July 10, 1992, 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 Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of February, 1996.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ledyard B. Marsh,

Director, Project Directorate I-1, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 96-5205 Filed 3-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Public Workshop on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Materials Licensing Process

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The NRC will hold a public workshop in Rockville, Maryland, to receive input from licensees and the public on its recent initiative to redesign the materials licensing process. All interested licensees, and members of the public are invited to attend this workshop. The NRC has prepared a workshop agenda and background information on the project. They will be available for review after April 11, 1996. Attendees, who would like a package in advance of the meeting, should call, fax, or E-mail the contact listed in this notice. Interested parties, unable to attend the workshop, are encouraged to provide written comments pertinent to the process, by May 11, 1996.

DATES: The workshop will be held on April 25, 1996, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public workshop will be held in the NRC auditorium at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Visitor parking around the NRC building is limited; however, the workshop site is located adjacent to the White Flint Station on the Metro Red Line. Seating for the public will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Written comments may be provided at the workshop or to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch. Written comments should be submitted on or before May 11, 1996. Copies of the agenda and related

documents can be obtained, after April 11, 1996, from the NRC contact listed below, or from the NRC's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW, Lower Level, Washington, DC 20555; telephone 202-634-3273; fax: 202-634-3343.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Sally L. Merchant, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop T 8-F-5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone 301-415-7874; fax: 301-415-5369; INTERNET: SLM2@NRC.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In October 1994, the NRC began to examine its materials licensing process to identify ways to improve it, while maintaining or raising the level of public safety. An improved process would: perform licensing reviews and associated tasks an order of magnitude faster than the current practice; reduce the resources associated with the current licensing practice; and take full advantage of information technology. The staff is using a technique called Business Process Redesign, a process of fundamentally changing the way that work is performed, to achieve significant improvements in speed, cost, and quality.

A detailed plan for implementing this new process was presented to the Commission in May 1995. On June 16, 1995, the Commission directed the staff: (1) to proceed with the detailed design and testing of the new process; (2) to coordinate its efforts closely with the Agreement States, licensees, and the public; (3) to separate the payment of licensing fees from the process of issuing a license and continue to streamline fees; and (4) extend certain qualified licenses for an additional 5 years, on a one-time basis. A final rule to extend qualified licenses was published on January 16, 1996, and effective on February 15, 1996. Implementation of the new licensing process is scheduled to begin early in 1997.

This workshop is one of a series of interactions with the Agreement States, licensees, and the public to gather suggestions and ideas to ensure the success of this licensing initiative. A transcript of this workshop will be available for inspection, and copying for a fee at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Lower Level, Washington, DC 20555, on or about May 23, 1996.

The workshop will be open to the public, and the public will be provided opportunities throughout the workshop to comment on issues under discussion.

Dated: February 29, 1996.

Donald A. Cool,

Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS.

[FR Doc. 96-5204 Filed 3-5-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste Subcommittee Meeting

The ACRS and ACNW Subcommittee will hold a joint meeting on March 26, 1996, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Tuesday, March 26, 1996—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business.

The Joint Subcommittee will discuss the protocol of the Joint Subcommittee, the activities of the Spent Fuel Program Office, the status of the decommissioning rule and related matters, and perspectives regarding the health effects of low-level radiation. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committees.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Subcommittee, their consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS/ACNW staff member named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittees will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, their consultants, and other interested persons regarding these matters.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled 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 the Senior