

The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated June 17, 1996.

#### *The Need for the Proposed Actions*

The need for this action arises for certain Appendix R fire scenarios whose safe shutdown strategy does not immediately depressurize the reactor and uses low pressure injections systems, and thus requires the safety relief valves (SRVs) to be actuated multiple times during a cooldown. Although each SRV accumulator has capacity for at least five valve strokes, a long term source of nitrogen, beyond the capacity of the SRV accumulators is required in order to provide for additional valve strokes for some scenarios. The nitrogen may be provided from either of two nitrogen storage locations.

#### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Actions*

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption and concludes that the proposed exemption will provide sufficient fire protection that there is no increase in the risk of fires at the facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents.

The proposed exemption affects only the source of illumination credited for safe shutdown functions. No physical change results from the proposed exemption, and, as discussed above, the probability of fires has not been increased. Therefore, 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 actions.

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

#### *Alternatives to the Proposed Actions*

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed actions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed actions, the staff considered denial of the proposed actions. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed actions and the alternative action are similar.

#### *Alternative Use of Resources*

These actions do not involve use of 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 February 26, 1997, 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 actions. The State official had no comments.

#### *Finding of No Significant Impact*

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed actions 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 exemption.

For further details with respect to the proposed actions, see the application dated June 17, 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 Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 5th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Patrick D. Milano,  
*Acting Director, Project Directorate I-3,  
Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of  
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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#### **Core Research Capabilities for the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NRC staff and industry will discuss the core research capabilities of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

**DATES:** March 25, 1997, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Room O-1F7/9, One White Flint North (OWFN) Building, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Lloyd Donnelly, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555 Telephone (301) 415-5828.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the core research capabilities of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in order for this office to continue active participation in cooperative safety research activities with other government agencies including DOE, industry, and international organizations concerned with nuclear reactor safety.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
David L. Morrison,  
*Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory  
Research.*

[FR Doc. 97-6477 Filed 3-13-97; 8:45 am]

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#### **[Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499]**

#### **South Texas Project; Local Public Document Room**

Notice is hereby given that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will not be relocating the local public document room (LPDR) for records pertaining to Houston Lighting and Power Company's South Texas Project. The LPDR will remain at the J.M. Hodges Library, Wharton County Junior College, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas. The Library Director has informed the NRC staff that they will continue with the maintenance and operation of the South Texas LPDR.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Russell A. Powell,  
*Chief, Freedom of Information/Local Public  
Document Room Branch, Office of  
Information Resources Management.*

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