

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph J. Holonich,

Chief, Uranium Recovery Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 97-7182 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

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[50-282 AND 50-306]

Northern States Power Company; Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to the Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-42 and DPR-60, issued to Northern States Power Company, (the licensee), for operation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plants, Unit 1 and 2, respectively, located in Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow license amendments for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, that resolve unreviewed safety questions associated with post-seismic cooling water source operations.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendments dated January 29, 1997, as supplemented February 11, 12, March 7, 10, and 11, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise the cooling water system emergency intake design bases. The proposed amendments contain license conditions that provide interim measures to resolve unreviewed safety questions relating to the cooling water system emergency intake line. The interim measures include the use of a dedicated operator to identify a seismic event so that nonessential cooling water loads can be stripped and the cooling water load demand can be reduced to within the capacity of the seismically qualified emergency intake pipe following a design-basis earthquake. The use of the dedicated operator will be eliminated when the licensee is able to provide a seismically qualified cooling water source either through analyses or modifications.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, the proposed amendments would not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and the proposed amendments would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents.

The changes 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 offsite, and there is no 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 Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plants, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 18, 1997, the staff consulted with the Minnesota State official, Mr. Michael McCarthy of the Department of Public Services, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had 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 January 29, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated February 11, 12, March 7, 10, and 11, 1997, 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 Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of March 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Beth Wetzel,

Project Manager, Project Directorate III-1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97-7318 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

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Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

The Nuclear Safety Research Review Committee (NSRRC) will hold its next meeting on April 3-4, 1997 in Room T-10A1, Two White Flint North (TWFN) Building, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. both days.

The meeting will be held in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and will be open to public attendance. The NSRRC provides advice to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) on matters of overall management importance in the direction of the NRC's program of nuclear safety research. The main purpose of this meeting will be: (1) to review the reports of the PRA/I&C and Human Factors joint Subcommittee meeting, the Accident Analysis Subcommittee meeting, and the Materials and Engineering Subcommittee meeting; (2) discuss research core competencies; and (3) review Advisory Committee effectiveness.

Participants in parts of the discussion will include senior NRC staff and other RES technical staff as necessary.

Members of the public may file written statements regarding any matter

to be discussed at the meeting. Members of the public may also make requests to speak at the meeting, but permission to speak will be determined by the Committee chairperson in accordance with procedures established by the Committee. A verbatim transcription will be made of the NSRRC meeting and a copy of the transcript will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room in Washington, DC.

Any inquiries regarding this notice or any subsequent changes in the status and schedule of the meeting, may be made to the NSRRC Designated Federal Officer, Dr. Jose Luis M. Cortez (telephone: 301-415-6596), between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Persons planning to attend these meetings are encouraged to contact the above named individual one or two business days before the scheduled meeting to be advised of any changes in schedule, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 17th day of March, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Andrew L. Bates,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-7176 Filed 3-20-97; 8:45 am]

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Regulatory Guides; Issuance and Availability

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued for public comment drafts of three guides for its Regulatory Guide Series. This series has been developed to describe and make available to the public such information as methods acceptable to the NRC staff for implementing specific parts of the Commission's regulations, techniques used by the staff in evaluating specific problems or postulated accidents, and data needed by the staff in its review of applications for permits and licenses.

The draft guides are temporarily identified by their task numbers, DG-0006, DG-0007, and DG-0009 (which should be mentioned in all correspondence concerning these draft guides). DG-0006, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Commercial Nuclear Pharmacy Licenses," is being developed to provide guidance to applicants and licensees in preparing applications for new licenses, license amendments, and license renewals for the possession, use, and distribution of byproduct material in commercial nuclear pharmacy operations. DG-0007, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Licenses To Authorize Distribution of Various Items to Commercial Nuclear

Pharmacies and Medical Use Licensees," is being developed to provide guidance to applicants and licensees on preparing applications for new licenses, license amendments, and license renewals for medical distribution licenses under 10 CFR Part 32, "Specific Domestic Licenses To Manufacture or Transfer Certain Items Containing Byproduct Material." DG-0009, which is a proposed supplement to Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 10.8, "Guide for the Preparation of Applications for Medical Use Programs," is being developed to conform Regulatory Guide 10.8 with current medical use regulations. DG-0009 also proposes to add a new appendix to Regulatory Guide 10.8, Appendix Y, "Provisions for Research Involving Human Subjects." All three of these guides are in conformance with new medical use regulations (59 FR 61767) that became effective on January 1, 1996.

The development of these guides has included coordination with the NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (which includes a nuclear pharmacist), the NRC's Medical Visiting Fellow (a physician with special expertise in nuclear medicine), and a former NRC Medical Visiting Fellow (a nuclear pharmacist).

These draft guides are being issued to involve the public in the early stages of the development of a regulatory position in these areas. They have not received complete staff review and do not represent an official NRC staff position.

Public comments are being solicited on the draft guides. Comments should be accompanied by supporting data. Written comments may be submitted to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Comments will be most helpful if received by July 31, 1997.

Comments may be submitted electronically, in either ASCII text or Wordperfect format (version 5.1 or later), by calling the NRC Electronic Bulletin Board on FedWorld. The bulletin board may be accessed using a personal computer, a modem, and one of the commonly available communications software packages, or directly via Internet.

If using a personal computer and modem, the NRC subsystem on FedWorld can be accessed directly by dialing the toll free number: 1-800-303-9672. Communication software parameters should be set as follows: parity to none, data bits to 8, and stop bits to 1 (N,8,1). Using ANSI or VT-100

terminal emulation, the NRC NUREGs and RegGuides for Comment subsystem can then be accessed by selecting the "Rules Menu" option from the "NRC Main Menu." For further information about options available for NRC at FedWorld, consult the "Help/Information Center" from the "NRC Main Menu." Users will find the "FedWorld Online User's Guides" particularly helpful. Many NRC subsystems and databases also have a "Help/Information Center" option that is tailored to the particular subsystem.

The NRC subsystem on FedWorld can also be accessed by a direct dial phone number for the main FedWorld BBS, 703-321-3339, or by using Telnet via Internet, fedworld.gov. If using 703-321-3339 to contact FedWorld, the NRC subsystem will be accessed from the main FedWorld menu by selecting the "Regulatory, Government Administration and State Systems," then selecting "Regulatory Information Mall." At that point, a menu will be displayed that has an option "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission" that will take you to the NRC Online main menu. The NRC Online area also can be accessed directly by typing "/go nrc" at a FedWorld command line. If you access NRC from FedWorld's main menu, you may return to FedWorld by selecting the "Return to FedWorld" option from the NRC Online Main Menu. However, if you access NRC at FedWorld by using NRC's toll-free number, you will have full access to all NRC systems but you will not have access to the main FedWorld system.

If you contact FedWorld using Telnet, you will see the NRC area and menus, including the Rules menu. Although you will be able to download documents and leave messages, you will not be able to write comments or upload files (comments). If you contact FedWorld using FTP, all files can be accessed and downloaded but uploads are not allowed; all you will see is a list of files without descriptions (normal Gopher look). An index file listing all files within a subdirectory, with descriptions, is included. There is a 15-minute time limit for FTP access.

Although FedWorld can be accessed through the World Wide Web, like FTP that mode only provides access for downloading files and does not display the NRC Rules menu.

For more information on NRC bulletin boards call Mr. Arthur Davis, Systems Integration and Development Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-5780; e-mail AXD3@nrc.gov. For more information on these draft regulatory guides, contact Dr. D. Howe,