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Signed at Washington, D.C. this 18th Day of July 1997.

Terry Sullivan,

Acting Chief, Branch of Construction Wage Determinations.

[FR Doc. 97-19349 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-27-M

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME: 1:00 p.m., Friday, August 1, 1997.

PLACE: EAA Fly-In Convention, Aviation Safety Center, Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED:

6886 Briefs of Aviation Accidents—

1996 File Nos:

1325—Pueblo, Colorado, 10/4/96

1505—Fairchild AFB, Washington, 09/14/96

6887 Safety Recommendations to FAA Concerning Amateur-Built Experimental Aircraft

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT: Telephone: (202) 314-6100.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bea Hardesty, (202) 314-6065.

Dated: July 22, 1997.

Bea Hardesty,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-19724 Filed 7-22-97; 4:27 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Duke Power Company Oconee; Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3 Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations for Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and

DPR-55 issued to Duke Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3, located in Oconee County, South Carolina.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24, which requires a monitoring system that will energize clear audible alarms if accidental criticality occurs in each area in which special nuclear material is handled, used, or stored. The proposed action would also exempt the licensee from the requirements to maintain emergency procedures for each area in which this licensed special nuclear material is handled, used, or stored to ensure that all personnel withdraw to an area of safety upon the sounding of the alarm, to familiarize personnel with the evacuation plan, and to designate responsible individuals for determining the cause of the alarm, and to place radiation survey instruments in accessible locations for use in such an emergency.

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated February 4, 1997, as supplemented on March 19, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of 10 CFR 70.24 is to ensure that if a criticality were to occur during the handling of special nuclear material, personnel would be alerted to that fact and would take appropriate action. At a commercial nuclear power plant the inadvertent criticality with which 10 CFR 70.24 is concerned could occur during fuel handling operations. The special nuclear material that could be assembled into a critical mass at a commercial nuclear power plant is in the form of nuclear fuel; the quantity of other forms of special nuclear material that is stored on site is small enough to preclude achieving a critical mass. Because the fuel is not enriched beyond 5.0 weight percent Uranium-235 and because commercial nuclear plant licensees have procedures and features designed to prevent inadvertent criticality, the staff has determined that it is unlikely that an inadvertent criticality could occur due to the handling of special nuclear material at a commercial power reactor. The requirements of 10 CFR 70.24, therefore, are not necessary to ensure the safety of personnel during the handling of special nuclear materials at commercial power reactors. The proposed exemption is needed, however, for Oconee to

continue to operate in accordance with its license and Commission regulations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there is no significant environmental impact if the exemption is granted. Inadvertent or accidental criticality will be precluded through compliance with the Oconee Nuclear Station Technical Specifications, the design of the fuel storage racks providing geometric spacing of fuel assemblies in their storage locations, and administrative controls imposed on fuel handling procedures. Technical Specifications requirements specify reactivity limits for the fuel storage racks and minimum spacing between the fuel assemblies in the storage racks.

Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 50, "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," Criterion 62, requires the criticality in the fuel storage and handling system to be prevented by physical systems or processes, preferably by use of geometrically safe configurations. This is met at Oconee, as identified in the Technical Specification Section 3.8 and in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) Section 9.1, by detailed procedures that must be available for use by refueling personnel. Therefore, as stated in the Technical Specifications, these procedures, the Technical Specifications requirements, and the design of the fuel handling equipment with built-in interlocks and safety features, provide assurance that no incident could occur during refueling operations that would result in a hazard to public health and safety. In addition, the design of the facility does not include provisions for storage of fuel in a dry location.

UFSAR Section 9.1.1, New Fuel Storage, states that new fuel will normally be stored in the spent fuel pool serving the respective unit and that it may be also be stored in the fuel transfer canal. The fuel assemblies are stored in five racks in a row having a nominal center-to-center distance of 2 feet 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. New fuel may also be stored in shipping containers. (Note that in none of these locations would criticality be possible.)

The proposed exemption would not result in any significant radiological impacts. The proposed exemption would not affect radiological plant effluent nor cause any significant occupational exposures since the Technical Specifications, design controls (including geometric spacing and design of fuel assembly storage spaces) and administrative controls