

begin promptly and fabrication must begin in the summer of 1998. The TN-68 COC application, dated January 23, 1998, is under consideration by the Commission. It is anticipated, if approved, the TN-68 COC may be issued in 2000.

The proposed fabrication exemption will not authorize use of the casks to store spent fuel. That will occur only when, and if, a COC is issued. NRC approval of the fabrication exemption request may not be construed as an NRC commitment to favorably consider TN's application for a COC. TN will bear the risk of all activities conducted under the exemption, including the risk that the nine casks TN plans to construct may not be usable because they may not meet specifications or conditions placed in a COC that NRC may ultimately approve.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:* The Environmental Assessment for the final rule, "Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Nuclear Power Reactor Sites" (55 FR 29181 (1990)), considered the potential environmental impacts of casks which are used to store spent fuel under a COC and concluded that there would be no significant environmental impacts. The proposed action now under consideration would not permit use of the casks, but only fabrication. There are no radiological environmental impacts from fabrication since cask fabrication does not involve radiological or radioactive materials. The major non-radiological environmental impacts involve use of natural resources due to cask fabrication. Each TN-68 storage cask weighs approximately 100 tons and is fabricated mainly from steel and plastic. The estimated 900 tons of steel required for nine casks is expected to have very little impact on the steel industry. Additionally, the estimated 9 tons of plastic required for nine casks is insignificant compared to the millions of tons of plastic produced annually. Cask fabrication would be at a metal fabrication facility, not at the reactor site. Fabrication of nine casks is insignificant compared to the amount of metal fabrication performed annually in the United States. If the casks are not usable, the casks could be disposed of or recycled. The amount of material disposed of is insignificant compared to the amount of steel and plastic that is disposed of annually in the United States. Based upon this information, the fabrication of nine casks will have no significant impact on the environment since no radioactive materials are involved, and the amount of natural resources used is minimal.

*Alternative to the Proposed Action:* Since there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact are not evaluated. The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny approval of the exemption and, therefore, not allow cask fabrication until a COC is issued. However, if a COC is issued and fabrication of the casks occurs, the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action would be the same.

Given that there are no significant differences in environmental impacts between the proposed action and the alternative considered and that the applicant has a legitimate need to fabricate the casks prior to certification and is willing to assume the risk that the fabricated casks may not be certified or may require modification, the Commission concludes that the preferred alternative is to grant the exemption.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted:* The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection was consulted about the EA for the proposed action and had no comments.

References used in preparation of the EA:

1. NRC, Environmental Assessment Regarding Final Rule, "Storage of Spent Fuel in NRC-Approved Storage Casks at Power Reactor Sites," 55 FR 29181.
2. NRC, 10 CFR part 51, Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions.

#### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR part 51. Based upon the foregoing EA, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.234(c) so that TN may fabricate nine TN-68 casks prior to issuance of a COC will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

This application was docketed under 10 CFR part 72, Docket 72-1027. For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated January 23, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555, and the Local Public Document Room at the State Library of Pennsylvania, Walnut Street

and Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of May 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
**Susan F. Shankman,**  
*Acting Deputy Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 98-12674 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

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## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket Number 07003085; License Number SNM-2001]

### **Public Meeting To Discuss the Decommissioning of the Babcock and Wilcox Shallow Land Disposal Area in Parks Township, PA**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to inform the public of a meeting to discuss the decommissioning of the Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) Shallow Land Disposal Area (SLDA) in Parks Township, PA. The meeting will be held on May 27, 1998, in the Leechburg High School Cafeteria on Siberian Avenue, in Leechburg, PA. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and will end at 9:30 p.m. The meeting will consist of a facilitated discussion, followed by an opportunity for comments by interested members of the public.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SLDA is located in Armstrong County, PA, approximately 23 miles east-northeast of Pittsburgh. The SLDA consists of ten waste disposal trenches comprising approximately 1.2 acres surrounded by a 40-acre fenced buffer area. The SLDA was formerly owned by Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC) which also operated the nearby Apollo Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Facility. In the 1960s and 1970s, the SLDA was used by NUMEC to dispose of radioactively contaminated (primarily uranium and thorium) and non-radioactive wastes in accordance with NRC regulations at 10 CFR 20.304. NRC rescinded 10 CFR 20.304 in 1981. In 1967, Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) purchased stock in NUMEC and then sold it to B&W in 1971.

In September 1994, B&W submitted several remediation alternatives for the SLDA to NRC. B&W's preferred alternative was to stabilize the waste in place by covering the buried waste with a soil and synthetic cover and isolating

the waste from the groundwater with slurry walls, grout curtains and other engineered barriers. Based on B&W's proposed alternative for decommissioning the SLDA, NRC published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing NRC's intent to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the decommissioning of the site. NRC conducted an EIS scoping meeting in Leechburg, PA, on January 26, 1995, and released a scoping summary report on May 30, 1995. In August 1997, NRC completed development of a draft EIS (DEIS) and published a Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register** on September 4, 1997. NRC withdrew the DEIS on September 24, 1997, so that NRC staff could develop additional information regarding the alternatives presented in the DEIS.

**CONDUCT OF MEETING:** The meeting will be held on May 27, 1998, in the Leechburg High School Cafeteria on Siberian Avenue, in Leechburg, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will end at 9:30 p.m. The meeting will be facilitated by Mr. F. X. Cameron, NRC's Special Counsel for Public Liaison. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss, with representative stakeholders and the public, the status of the decommissioning of the SLDA. The meeting will involve representatives from the NRC, local government and citizen groups and the public. These representatives will participate in a facilitated discussion. In addition, the public will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments at specified points during the discussion.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dominick Orlando, Division of Waste Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T-8F37, Washington, DC, telephone (301) 415-6749, e-mail DAO@NRC.GOV

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of May 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**John W.N. Hickey,**

*Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 98-12678 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**DATE:** Weeks of May 11, 18, 25, and June 1, 1998.

**PLACE:** Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

**STATUS:** Public and Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

*Week of May 11*

Wednesday, May 13

10:30 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)

- a: Final Rule: Amendments to 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, 50, 70, and 72-Self-Guarantee of Decommissioning Funding by Non-Profit and Non-Bond Issuing Licensee
- b: Final Rule: Revision of 10 CFR 32.14 (D) to Place Timepieces Containing Gaseous Tritium Light Sources on the Same Regulatory Basis as Timepieces Containing Tritium Paint (Contact: Ken Hart, 301-415-1659)

*Week of May 18—Tentative*

There are no meetings the week of May 18.

*Week of May 25—Tentative*

Friday, May 29

10:30 a.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

1:00 p.m. Briefing on Investigative Matters (Closed—Ex. 5 and 7)

*Week of June 1—Tentative*

Wednesday, June 3

8:30 a.m. Briefing on Remaining Issues Related to Proposed Restart of Millstone Unit 3. (Public Meeting) (Contact: Bill Travers, 301-415-1200)

12:30 p.m. (Continuation of Millstone meeting.)

Thursday, June 4

3:30 p.m. Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Friday, June 5

10:00 a.m. Briefing by EPRI on their Strategic Plan for the Future (Public Meeting)

\*The schedule for commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

Contact Person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Commission meeting, "Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2 and 6)," previously scheduled for Thursday, April 30, was held on Thursday, May 7.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to [wmh@nrc.gov](mailto:wmh@nrc.gov) or [dkw@nrc.gov](mailto:dkw@nrc.gov).

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**William M. Hill, Jr.,**

*SECY Tracking Officer Office of the Secretary.*  
[FR Doc. 98-12793 Filed 5-8-98; 4:17 pm]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Notice of Availability of Draft NUREG-1628 "Staff Responses to Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors; Correction

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; Correction.

**SUMMARY:** This document corrects a notice appearing in the **Federal Register** on April 27, 1998 (63 FR 20673), that announces the availability of Draft NUREG-1628 and requests public comment on the draft report. This action is necessary to include an inadvertent omission of the comment expiration date.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John L. Minns, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301 415-3166.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Dates:* The comment period expires October 1, 1998.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Seymour H. Weiss,**

*Director, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning of Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 98-12671 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M