

accounting records created and maintained in the Centers pertaining to revenue collection and accounting; processing, analysis, and disposition of tax returns, tax information and related records; mailing of tax forms, transcription of statistical information and preparation of reports.

16. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Office of the Chief, Management and Administration; Assistant Commissioner, Support Services; Office of the Chief, Headquarters Operations; Office of the Director, Support Services; Regional Commissioners (N1-058-97-9, 42 items, 36 temporary items). The records proposed for disposal consist largely of administrative records pertaining to such matters as air quality management, building renovation projects, management improvement studies, operating plans, space planning, parking programs, work information tracking, and membership in professional organizations.

17. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Service Centers (N1-058-98-11, 1 item, 1 temporary item). A reduction in the retention period for Posting, Payment, and Adjustment Documents, which were previously approved for disposal.

18. Department of Treasury, Under Secretary, Domestic Finance, Office of Federal Financing Bank (N1-056-98-1, 4 items, 2 temporary items). A reduction in the retention period for Federal Financing Note and Obligation Files and Transaction Files, which were previously approved for disposal.

19. African Development Foundation, Office of Programs and Field Operations (N1-487-98-1, 4 items, 4 temporary items). Master Grant Documentation Files, including electronic versions of records created by electronic mail and word processing applications.

20. Environmental Protection Agency, Laboratory Records (N1-412-97-5, 1 item, 1 temporary item). Employee Occupational Exposure to Ionizing Radiation records consisting of quarterly employee exposure reports, lists of approved radioactive isotope users, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) correspondence, policies regarding handling of radiation, questionnaires and requisitions for and inventories of radioactive materials. These files will be maintained for 75 years after the termination of the NRC license.

21. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Agency-wide (N1-311-97-2, 4 items, 2 temporary items). Records of external committees and conferences sponsored by other agencies.

22. National Archives and Records Administration (N1-GRS-98-1, 2 items, 2 temporary items). An addition to General Records Schedule 1, applicable to all Federal agencies, providing disposition authority for records documenting positive drug test results for Federal employees and job applicants.

23. Central Intelligence Agency, Agency-wide (N1-263-98-1, 3 items, 2 temporary items). The temporary records include agency posters produced in support of routine events and subjects and pre-production materials. Mission related posters are proposed for permanent retention.

24. Tennessee Valley Authority, Chief Engineer (N1-142-98-14, 2 items, 1 temporary item). Temporary files of the Chief Engineer consisting of field engineering log books, concreting operations records, progress reports, blasting records and administrative records. Project files relating to water control and related photographs, fatalities at TVA facilities, and Townlift correspondence are proposed for permanent retention.

Dated: July 2, 1998.

**Geraldine N. Phillips,**

*Acting Assistant Archivist for Record Services—Washington, DC.*

[FR Doc. 98-18458 Filed 7-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7515-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-348 and 50-364]

### Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2); exemption

#### I

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc., et al. (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-2 and NPF-8, for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (FNP), Units 1 and 2, respectively. The licenses provide, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The FNP facility consists of two pressurized-water reactors located at the licensee's site in Houston County, Alabama.

#### II

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.71, "Maintenance of records, making of reports," paragraph (e)(4) states, in part, that "Subsequent revisions [to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report

(UFSAR)] must be filed annually or 6 months after each refueling outage provided that the interval between successive updates [to the UFSAR] does not exceed 24 months." The FNP, Units 1 and 2, share a common UFSAR; therefore, this rule requires the licensee to update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. By letter dated January 19, 1998, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4).

#### III

Section 50.12(a) of 10 CFR, "Specific exemptions," states that:

The Commission may, upon application by any interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations of this part, which are (1) Authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security. (2) The Commission will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present.

Section 50.12(a)(2)(ii) of 10 CFR states that special circumstances are present when "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule \* \* \*." As noted in the staff's supporting Safety Evaluation, the licensee's proposed schedule for UFSAR updates will ensure that the FNP UFSAR will be maintained current within 24 months of the last revision and the interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report will not exceed 24 months. The proposed schedule fits within the 24-month duration specified by 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). Literal application of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) would require the licensee to update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit; a more burdensome requirement than intended. Accordingly, the Commission has determined that special circumstances are present as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). The Commission has further determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission hereby grants the licensee an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). The licensee will be required to submit updates to the FNP UFSAR within 6 months after the Unit 1 refueling outage. With the current length of fuel cycles, UFSAR updates would be submitted

every 18 months, but not to exceed 24 months from the last submittal.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment (63 FR 35985 dated July 1, 1998).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

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

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Samuel J. Collins,**

*Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 98-18548 Filed 7-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-483]

### Union Electric Company Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-30 issued to Union Electric Company (the licensee) for operation of the Callaway Plant, Unit 1 located in Callaway County, Missouri.

The proposed amendment would support a modification to the plant to increase the storage capacity of the spent fuel pool.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. The proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

In the analysis of the safety issues concerning the expanded pool storage capacity, the following previously postulated accident scenarios have been considered:

- a. A spent fuel assembly drop in the Spent fuel pool
- b. Loss of Spent fuel pool cooling flow
- c. A seismic event
- d. Misloaded fuel assembly

The probability that any of the accidents in the above list can occur is not significantly increased by the modification itself. The probabilities of a seismic event or loss of spent fuel pool cooling flow are not influenced by the proposed changes. The probabilities of accidental fuel assembly drops or misloadings are primarily influenced by the methods used to lift and move these loads. The method of handling loads during normal plant operations is not significantly changed, since the same equipment (i.e., Spent Fuel Handling Machine) and procedures will be used. A new offset handling tool will be required to assess some storage rack cells located adjacent to the pool walls. The grapple mechanism, procedures, and fuel manipulation methods will be very similar to those used by the standard fuel handling tool. Therefore, this tool does not represent a significant change in the methods used to lift or move fuel. Since the methods used to move loads during normal operations remain nearly the same as those used previously, there is no significant increase in the probability of an accident.

During rack removal and installation, all work in the pool area will be controlled and performed in strict accordance with specific written procedures. Any movement of fuel assemblies required to be performed to support the modification (e.g., removal and installation of racks) will be performed in the same manner as during normal refueling operations. Shipping cask movements will not be performed during the modification period.

Accordingly, the proposed modification does not involve a significant increase in the probability of an accident previously evaluated.

The consequences of the previously postulated scenarios for an accidental drop of a fuel assembly in the spent fuel pool have been re-evaluated for the proposed change. The results show that the postulated accident of a fuel assembly striking the top of the storage racks will not distort the racks

sufficiently to impair their functionality. The minimum subcriticality margin,  $K_{eff}$  less than or equal to 0.95, will be maintained. The structural damage to the Fuel Building, pool liner, and fuel assembly resulting from a fuel assembly drop striking the pool floor or another assembly located within the racks is primarily dependent on the mass of the falling object and the drop height. Since these two parameters are not changed by the proposed modification, the structural damage to these items remains unchanged. Cycle specific calculations, using core specific parameters continue to ensure that the radiological dose at the exclusion area boundary remain within the limits documented in the Callaway FSAR [Final Safety Analysis Report]. Dose levels will remain "well within" the levels required by 10 CFR 100, paragraph 11, as defined in Section 15.7.4.II.1 of the Standard Review Plan. Thus, the results of the postulated fuel drop accidents remain acceptable and do not represent a significant increase in consequences from any of the previously evaluated accidents that have been reviewed and found acceptable by the NRC.

The consequences of a loss of spent fuel pool cooling have been evaluated and found to have no increase. The concern with this accident is a reduction of spent fuel pool water inventory from bulk pool boiling resulting in uncovering fuel assemblies. This situation would lead to fuel failure and subsequent significant increase in offsite dose. Loss of spent fuel pool cooling at Callaway is mitigated by ensuring that a sufficient time lapse exists between the loss of forced cooling and uncovering fuel. This period of time is compared against a reasonable period to re-establish cooling or supply an alternative water source. Evaluation of this accident usually includes determination of the time to boil. The time allowed for operator actions is much less than the onset of any significant increase in offsite dose, since once boiling begins it would have to continue unchecked until the pool surface was lowered to the point of exposing active fuel. The time to boil represents the onset of loss of pool water inventory and is commonly used as a gage for establishing the comparison of consequences before and after a reracking project. The heat up rate in the Spent fuel pool is a nearly linear function of the fuel decay heat load. The fuel decay heat load will increase subsequent to the proposed changes because of the increase in the number of assemblies. The methodology