

Finding of No Significant Impact

The NRC staff has prepared an EA for the proposed renewal of NRC Source Material License SUA-1350. On the basis of this assessment, the NRC staff has concluded that the environmental impacts that may result from the proposed action would not be significant, and therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

The EA and other documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and copying at the NRC Public Document Room, in the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street N.W., Washington, DC 20555.

Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

The Commission hereby provides notice that this is a proceeding on an application for a licensing action falling within the scope of Subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operators Licensing Proceedings," of the Commission's Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders in 10 CFR Part 2 (54 FR 8269). Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing. In accordance with § 2.1205(c), a request for a hearing must be filed within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this **Federal Register** notice. The request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary either:

(1) By delivery to the Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff of the Office of the Secretary at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852; or

(2) By mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

Each request for a hearing must also be served, by delivering it personally or by mail to:

(1) The applicant, Kennecott Uranium Company, P.O. Box 1500, Rawlins, WY 82301;

(2) The NRC staff, by delivery to the Executive Director of Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852; or

(3) By mail addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

In addition to meeting other applicable requirements of 10 CFR Part 2 of the Commission's regulations, a request for a hearing filed by a person other than an applicant must describe in detail:

(1) The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;

(2) How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing, with particular reference to the factors set out in § 2.1205(g);

(3) The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and

(4) The circumstances establishing that the request for a hearing is timely in accordance with § 2.1205(c).

Any hearing that is requested and granted will be held in accordance with the Commission's "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart L.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of August 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John J. Surmeier,

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

[FR Doc. 99-20909 Filed 8-11-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 070-0925]

Finding of No Significant Impact Related to Amendment of Materials License No. SNM-928, Kerr-McGee Corporation, Cimarron Fuel Fabrication Site, Crescent, Oklahoma

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (hereafter referred to as NRC) is considering issuing a license amendment to Materials License No. SNM-923, held by the Kerr-McGee Cimarron Corporation (Cimarron or the licensee), to incorporate the licensee's proposed decommissioning plan (DP) for its Cimarron Fuel Fabrication Site (Cimarron site) located in Crescent, Oklahoma. Other proposals being considered include: (1) Establishment of a cleanup standard for the site; (2) revision of Cimarron's Radiation Protection Plan (RPP) that summarizes the overall radiation protection program for the Cimarron facility; and (3) revision of Cimarron's organizational structure.

Summary of Environmental Assessment

Background

Cimarron has environmental responsibility for a fuel fabrication facility site near the city of Crescent,

Oklahoma. The Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC) operated two plants at the Cimarron facility between 1965 and 1975, each under its own separate Atomic Energy Commission license. Radioactive Materials License SNM-928 was issued under 10 CFR Part 70 for the Uranium Fuel Fabrication Facility and Radioactive Materials License SNM-1174 was issued for the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. In 1983, when KMC was divided into Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) and Quivera Mining Corporation, SFC became the owner of the Cimarron facility. Subsequently, in 1988, Cimarron Corporation, a subsidiary of KMC, became responsible for the Cimarron facility. Although the Cimarron facility poses no immediate threat to public health and safety, it is listed in the Site Decommissioning Management Plan to ensure timely decommissioning.

Proposed Action

The objectives of the proposed actions are to decontaminate and decommission the Cimarron site to permit release for unrestricted use and to terminate the Radioactive Materials License SNM-928. In accordance with 10 CFR 70.38(g), Cimarron submitted a proposed DP. In conjunction with this proposal, Cimarron has also proposed revisions to the Radioactive Materials License SNM-928, changes to its RPP, and changes to its organizational structure.

Decommissioning activities have been ongoing since 1976 when production activities were terminated. Many of the decommissioning activities at the site have been completed under existing license conditions. Decommissioning activities remaining to be performed at the Cimarron facility include: decontamination and decommissioning of facility structures; onsite disposal of contaminated soil meeting the Option 2 criteria of NRC's 1981 Branch Technical Position (BTP)¹, "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes from Past Operations;" offsite disposal of soil or material exceeding the BTP Option 2 criteria; and groundwater remediation.

As previously noted, Cimarron proposed other related revisions to its license:

(1) Amending its license to add a new license condition specifically establishing the BTP Option 1 unrestricted-use, residual-contamination criteria as the cleanup standard for the Cimarron site;

¹ "Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Waste from Past Operations" (46 FR 52061, October 23, 1981).

(2) Amending license conditions to better delineate the handling of various classifications of contaminated material at the site, and revising License Condition 10 to only reference licensee commitments that pertain to Cimarron's current decommissioning status;

(3) Amending the RPP to clarify statements made in the RPP; incorporate references to a Quality Assurance Plan, and revise its Environmental Sampling Schedule; and

(4) Amending the license to incorporate changes in its organizational structure. These changes were and will continue to be caused by downsizing of staff at the Cimarron site as decommissioning activities are completed.

The Need for Proposed Action

The proposed actions are necessary for Cimarron to complete the remaining decommissioning activities needed for NRC to release the Cimarron site for unrestricted use and to terminate Radioactive Materials License SNM-928. License termination is a separate action that requires an NRC finding that the premises are suitable for release.

Alternative to Proposed Action

The only alternative considered in the Environmental Assessment (EA) was the no-action alternative. No action would mean that: (1) The site would not be approved to remediate now; (2) obsolete license conditions would continue to be in License SNM-928; (3) changes to the RPP would not be effective; and (4) Cimarron's organizational structure would be outdated.

NRC staff has evaluated the no-action alternative and determined that the no-action alternative would conflict with NRC's requirement, 10 CFR 70.38, for timely remediation at sites that have ceased operation. Although there is no immediate threat to the public health and safety from this site, not undertaking remediation at this time does not solve the regulatory and potential long-term health and safety problems associated with storing this waste. No action now would delay remediation until some time in the future, when costs could be much higher than they are today. It is even possible that no disposal option will be available in the future if the current low level waste disposal facilities are closed and no new ones are opened. Therefore, the no-action alternative is not acceptable.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action

Radiological impacts on members of the public may result from inhalation

and ingestion of releases of radioactivity in air and in water during the remediation operations, direct exposure to radiation from radioactive material at the site during remediation operations, and transport for disposal.

Decommissioning workers may receive doses primarily by ingestion, inhalation, and direct exposure during the decommissioning activities. In addition to impacts from routine operations, the potential radiological consequences of accidents were considered.

NRC staff has reviewed the potential impacts of the proposed decommissioning, both beneficial and adverse. NRC staff's conclusions are summarized as follows:

a. Radiation exposures of persons living or traveling near the site because of onsite operations and waste transportation will be well within limits contained in 10 CFR Part 20.

b. The potential radiological impacts off-site of potential onsite accidents are well below the radiation dose limit of 1 mSv/yr (100 mrem/yr) to the public and the radiation dose limit of 0.50 mSv/yr (5 rem/yr) to workers in accordance with 10 CFR Part 20.

c. The potential non-radiological impacts, such as socioeconomic, air quality, land and water use, etc., from decommissioning activities at Cimarron are negligible.

d. For conservatism, the site use is assumed to be equivalent to the resident farmer scenario described in the NRC Policy and Guidance Directive PG-8-08, "Scenarios for Assessing Potential Doses Associated with Residual Radioactivity." Under this scenario, the maximum radiation doses to a hypothetical resident farmer, who might establish a residence on the site, grow and consume food from the site, and consume drinking water from an onsite groundwater well, over a 1000-year period, were calculated assuming both with a cover and without a cover over the disposal cell. The predicted doses for both scenarios are less than 0.09 mSv/yr (9 mrem/yr), which is below NRC's Part 20 radiation dose for the public of 1 mSv/yr (100 mrem/yr).

e. Radiation doses to a remediation worker onsite from direct exposure are estimated to be less than 0.01 mSv (1 mrem) for a 2000-hour exposure period. Inhalation doses from a 2000-hour exposure would be less than 0.03 Sv (3 mrem). These predicted doses are substantially less than the occupation exposure limit of 0.50 mSv/yr (5 rem/yr) in 10 CFR Part 20.

f. The impacts from the transportation of radioactive materials are low and within NRC and Department of Transportation requirements. The

potential consequences and probability of a transportation accident are low.

g. The licensee has a radiation protection program that will maintain radiation exposures and effluent releases within the limits of 10 CFR Part 20 and will maintain exposures as low as is reasonably achievable.

h. The population within a 6.5 kilometer (4 mile) radius of the licensee facility has minority and senior citizen populations lower than the county and the State averages, and has a median household income above that of the county and the State. Based on these statistics, there are no significant minorities and low-income households that will be exposed to impacts from the proposed activities at Cimarron. Because there are no significant impacts from the proposed activities, there will be no environmental justice impacts.

i. No reasonably available alternative to the licensee's proposed plan is obviously superior.

Conclusions

On the basis of its EA, NRC staff has concluded that the proposed action would not have any significant effect on the quality of the human environment and does not warrant the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The action called for, under NEPA and 10 CFR Part 51, is the issuance of a license amendment authorizing the licensee to perform decommissioning of the Cimarron site as proposed by the licensee and make the proposed revisions to the license.

In accordance with the requirements of Subpart L of 10 CFR part 2, an Opportunity for a Hearing² was offered on September 6, 1995. No requests for a hearing were received.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Pursuant to 10 CFR part 51, NRC has prepared an EA related to the issuance of a license amendment to Materials License SNM-928, authorizing decommissioning of the Cimarron Site. On the basis of this EA, NRC has concluded that this licensing action would not have any significant effect on the quality of the human environment and does not warrant the preparation of an EIS. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

Further Information

For further details with respect to this action, the EA and other documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and copying at NRC's Public Document

² 60 FR 46315 (September 6, 1995).

Room at the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of August 1999.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

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

[FR Doc. 99-20907 Filed 8-11-99; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 112th meeting on September 14-15, 1999, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

Tuesday, September 14, 1999—8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 15, 1999—8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The following topics will be discussed:

A. ACNW Planning and Procedures—The Committee will hear a briefing from its staff on issues to be covered during this meeting. The Committee will also consider topics proposed for future consideration by the full Committee and Working Groups. The Committee will discuss ACNW-related activities of individual members.

B. Risk Communications—The Committee will continue to prepare for sessions with the local stakeholders to be held this fall in the Las Vegas, Nevada, area.

C. Results of the Arthur Andersen Review of the Division of Waste Management Activities—The Deputy Director, NMSS, will discuss the results of recent strategic planning activities within the Division of Waste Management and potential impacts on ACNW activities.

D. Progress Report on Waste Management Research Program Plan—The Office of Research will present its plan to the Committee, which it believes is consistent with the recommendations in NUREG-1635, the most recent joint ACNW/ACRS report on NRC research activities.

E. Decommissioning Standard Review Plan (SRP) and Dose Modeling—NMSS will provide a scheduled update of its progress in this area. Included will be a

discussion of the draft SRP modules and the status of dose models.

F. Division of Waste Management Fiscal Year 2000 Budget and Operating Plan Overview—NMSS managers will present an overview of their priorities as defined by available resources for Fiscal Year 2000.

G. Preparation of ACNW Reports—The Committee will discuss planned reports on the following topics: a White Paper on Near-Field Chemistry issues, a joint ACRS/ACNW letter report on an NMSS approach to risk-informed, performance-based regulation in NMSS, and other topics discussed during this and previous meetings as the need arises.

H. Meeting with the Director, Division of Waste Management—The Committee will meet with the Director informally to discuss items of mutual interest.

I. Miscellaneous—The Committee will discuss miscellaneous matters related to the conduct of Committee and organizational activities and complete discussion of matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACNW meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on September 29, 1998 (63 FR 51967). In accordance with these procedures, oral or written statements may be presented by members of the public, electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public, and questions may be asked only by members of the Committee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW, Dr. Richard P. Savio, as far in advance as practicable so that appropriate arrangements can be made to schedule the necessary time during the meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during this meeting will be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the ACNW Chairman. Information regarding the time to be set aside for taking pictures may be obtained by contacting the Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW, prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACNW meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should notify Dr. Savio as to their particular needs.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, the

Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting Dr. Richard P. Savio, Associate Director for Technical Support, ACRS/ACNW (Telephone 301/415-7363), between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. EDT.

ACNW meeting notices, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are now available for downloading or reviewing on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACNW meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACNW meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACNW Audiovisual Technician (301-415-8066), between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. EDT at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment and facilities that they use to establish the videoteleconferencing link. The availability of videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

Dated: August 6, 1999.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Reactor Safety Chapter of the Strategic Plan Workshop

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment/notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is requesting public comment on the draft Nuclear Reactor Safety Chapter of the NRC Strategic Plan. The NRC is conducting a workshop on August 20, 1999, to give stakeholders an opportunity to meet with agency representatives to ask questions and comment on the Nuclear Reactor Safety Chapter of the Strategic Plan that the Commission has under consideration. This workshop is open to the public and all interested parties may attend.

DATES: August 20, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: One White Flint North, NRC Commission Hearing Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James L. Blaha, Mail Stop O16-E15, U.S.