Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1–(800) 248–5100 (in Missouri 1–(800) 342–6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to S. Singh Bajwa, petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and to Nicholas S. Reynolds, Winston & Strawn, 1400 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1) (i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 31, 1997, which is 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 Rochester Public Library, 115 South Avenue, Rochester, New York 14610.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of April 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Guy S. Vissing,

Senior Project Manager Project Directorate I–1, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97–11121 Filed 4–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–338 and 50–339]

Virginia Electric and Power Company; North Anna Power Station, 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 exemption from the provisions of 10 CFR 50.44, 10 CFR 50.46, and Appendix K to 10 CFR Part 50 to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) for North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2 (NPS1&2), located in Louisa County, Virginia.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would enable the licensee to use demonstration fuel assemblies that contain some fuel rods whose zirconium-based cladding composition is somewhat different from the zirconium-based compound named zircaloy or ZIRLO. These demonstration assemblies would be loaded into NPS–1 for three cycles, with the initial irradiation planned for North Anna 1 Cycle 13. Irradiation of these four fuel assemblies may occur in either North Anna Unit 1 or North Anna Unit 2, or a combination of the two units, subject to the following constraints:

(1) The assemblies are not to be irradiated for more than three full operating cycles, and

(2) The maximum rod average burnup of any fuel rod in these assemblies shall not exceed the North Anna Units 1 and

2 lead rod burnup restriction of 60,000 megawatt days per metric ton uranium (MWD/MTU).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption of September 4, 1996 as supplemented February 3, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption to 10 CFR 50.44, 10 CFR 50.46, and Appendix K to 10 CFR Part 5O is needed because these regulations specifically refer to light-water reactors containing fuel consisting of uranium oxide pellets enclosed in zircaloy or ZIRLO tubes. Zircaloy and ZIRLO are zirconium-based alloys currently in use as cladding for fuel pellets. A new zirconium-based cladding has been developed which is not the same chemical composition as zircaloy or ZIRLO, and which the licensee wants to test in reactor operation. Since 10 CFR 50.46 and 10 CFR Part 5O, Appendix K, limit Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) calculations to zircaloy and 10 CFR 50.44 relates to the generation of hydrogen gas from a metal-water reaction with zircaloy or ZIRLO, an exemption is required in order to place four demonstration assemblies in the reactor core(s).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action will allow the use of the new cladding with chemical composition not significantly different from zircaloy or ZIRLO. Use of the demonstration assemblies with the new zirconium-based cladding does not affect the Emergency Core Cooling Systems calculations and has no significant effect on the previous assessment of hydrogen gas generation following a loss-of-coolant accident. With regard to potential radiological impacts to the general public, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect the potential for radiological accidents and does not affect radiological plant effluents. The demonstration assemblies meet the same design bases as the fuel which is currently in the reactors. No safety limits have been changed or setpoints altered as a result of the use of these assemblies. The Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) analyses are bounding for the demonstration assemblies as well as the remainder of the core. The advanced zirconium-based alloys have been shown through testing to perform satisfactorily under conditions representative of a reactor environment. In addition, the relatively small number of fuel rods involved does not represent a prohibitively large inventory of radioactive material which could be released into the reactor coolant in the event of cladding failure. The only credible consequence of this change would be a failure of the demonstration claddings. Even in the case of gross fuel failure, the number of rods involved is less than 3% of the core and, thus, sufficiently small that environmental impact would be negligible and is bounded by previous assessments. The small number of fuel rods involved in conjunction with the chemical similarity of the demonstration cladding to zircaloy cladding ensures that hydrogen production would not be significantly different from previous assessments. As a result, the proposed exemption does not affect the consequences of radiological accidents. No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluent that may be released offsite. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational exposure. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to the potential environmental impacts associated with the transportation of the demonstration assemblies, the advanced claddings have no impact on previous assessments determined in accordance with 10 CFR 51.52.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Because the Commission's staff has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the proposed exemption will have either no significantly different environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of plant operations.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2, issued by the Commission in April 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, the NRC staff consulted with Mr. Foldesi of the Virginia Department of Health on April 24, 1997, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. Mr. Foldesi had no comments on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated September 4, 1996, as supplemented February 3, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Alderman Library, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903–2498.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 24th day of April, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ngoc B. Le,

Acting Director, Project Directorate II–1, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97–11119 Filed 4–29–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

1997 List of Designated Federal Entities and Federal Entities

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: This notice provides a list of Designated Federal Entities and Federal Entities, as required by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (IG Act), as subsequently amended.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne Murrin (telephone: 202–395–1040), Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.