

absorbers. In NRC's November 7, 1996, safety evaluation of the TN-32 cask Safety Analysis Report, the staff concluded that fixed neutron poisons in the TN-32 cask will remain effective for the 20-year storage period. The applicant evaluated the criticality and radiological aspects of the North Anna ISFSI based on use of the TN-32 cask, as described in the North Anna ISFSI Safety Analysis Report. Consistent with the staff conclusions in the November 7, 1996, safety evaluation, the applicant did not propose any verification of TN-32 cask neutron absorber efficacy. The staff evaluated the environmental effects of the North Anna ISFSI and issued its findings in the April 4, 1997, EA. Granting an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.124(b) will have no environmental impact because the staff has determined, through its safety evaluation of the TN-32 cask, that periodic verification of the neutron absorber efficacy is not needed to assure that the fixed neutron poisons in the TN-32 cask will remain effective during the storage period.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since there are no environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions, alternatives are not evaluated other than the no action alternative. The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny approval of the exemption and, therefore, not allow (1) submittal of an annual effluent release report by May 1 rather than within 60 days of January 1, or (2) storage of ISFSI spent fuel records at a single qualified record storage facility, or (3) elimination of the requirement to verify the efficacy of neutron absorbing materials. These alternatives would have the same, or greater, environmental impacts.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

An official from the State of Virginia Bureau of Radiological Health was contacted about the EA for the proposed action and had no concerns.

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 (1) granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3) so that Virginia Power may submit an annual effluent release report by May 1 of each year, (2) granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.72(d) so that Virginia Power may store records of spent fuel stored at the ISFSI in a single record storage facility which meets the standards of ANSI N45.2.9-1974, and

(3) granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.124(b) so that Virginia Power need not verify the efficacy of the neutron absorbing material in ISFSI storage casks 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 72-16. For further details with respect to this action, see the application for an ISFSI license dated May 9, 1995, and the request for exemption dated April 29, 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 University of Virginia, Alderman Library, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of June 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William F. Kane,

Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Advanced Reactor Designs; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Advanced Reactor Designs will hold a meeting on July 6-7, 1998, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

A portion of the meeting may be closed to public attendance to discuss Westinghouse proprietary information per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4) and safeguards information per 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(3) related to the AP600 design.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Monday, July 6, 1998—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

Tuesday, July 7, 1998—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will continue its review of the Westinghouse AP600 design. Specifically, the Subcommittee will review issues identified by ACRS members at previous meetings related to the AP600 design. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be accepted and made available to the Committee. 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 Subcommittee, its consultants, and staff. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the cognizant ACRS staff engineer named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, Westinghouse Electric Company, their consultants, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, the scheduling of sessions open to the public, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, and the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor, can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Noel F. Dudley (telephone 301/415-6888) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EDT). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual one or two working days prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes to the agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: June 11, 1998.

Sam Duraiswamy,

Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on July 7, 1998, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (6) to discuss