update their FSARs periodically. According to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), the time interval for the subsequent FSAR updates must not exceed 24 months. The last full update of the Zion UFSAR was submitted to the NRC on July 5, 1996. Consequently, the next update would be required to be submitted no later than July 1998. However, ComEd is requesting an exemption from this requirement to allow them to update the FSAR to reflect the present condition of the units.

By letters dated February 13, 1998, and March 9, 1998, ComEd informed the NRC that Zion Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, have permanently ceased operations and both units are completely defueled and all fuel has been placed in the spent fuel pool for long-term storage. By letter dated May 4, 1998, the NRC acknowledged Zion's permanent cessation of power operation and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessels.

Many of the systems and components previously required for safety are no longer needed because the Zion units are permanently shut down. Therefore, updating the current FSAR will provide a description of components and systems that are no longer relevant to safety. Instead ComEd has proposed and committed to prepare and submit an update to the FSAR reflecting the permanently defueled condition of Zion Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, by December 31, 1998. This update will become Zion's Defueled Safety Analysis Report (DSAR).

Because ComEd's board decision on January 14, 1998, to shut down Zion was unexpected, ComEd staff did not have adequate time to develop the DSAR. Therefore, ComEd is requesting an extension of the update interval to allow sufficient time to develop and submit the DSAR. In their letter dated March 12, 1998, ComEd stated that many of the technical, administrative, and management resources needed to develop a DSAR are the same as those that would be involved in updating the FSAR. Consequently, updating the current FSAR by July 1998 would result either in a delay in developing a DSAR or in the expenditure of significant additional resources to develop a DSAR while preparing an UFSAR submittal in parallel.

Based on the information provided above, the extension of time interval from July 1998 to December 1998 for the submittal of the UFSAR would have no impact on the ability of systems, structures and components to perform the safety functions required with the plant permanently shut down, nor would it affect the safety of activities conducted with the facility in this condition. The proposed time exemption will not affect the potential for undesirable impacts to the environment.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action involves administrative activities unrelated to plant operation.

The proposed action will not result in an increase in the probability or consequences of accidents or result in a change in occupational or offsite dose. Therefore, there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

The proposed action will not result in a change in nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no environmental impacts associated with this action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Zion Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 18, 1998, the staff consulted with the Illinois State official, Frank Niziolek of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 12, 1998, 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 Waukegan Public Library, 126 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois 60085.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of June, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ramin R. Assa,

Project Manager, Project Directorate III–2, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–17219 Filed 6–26–98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–309]

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company, Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License No. DPR–36, a license held by the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (MYAPC or the licensee). The exemption would apply to the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station, a permanently shutdown plant located at the MYAPC site in Lincoln County, Maine.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would modify security requirements to eliminate certain equipment, to relocate certain equipment, to modify certain procedures, and reduce the number of armed responders, due to the permanently shutdown and defueled status of the Maine Yankee facility.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated November 25, 1997. The requested action would grant an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, ''Requirements for Physical Protection of Licensed Activities in Nuclear Power Plant Reactors against Radiological Sabotage.''

The Need for the Proposed Action

Maine Yankee was shut down in December 1996. On August 7, 1997, the licensee informed the Commission that it had decided to permanently cease

operations at Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station and that all fuel had been permanently removed from the reactor. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(a)(2), the certifications in the letter modified the facility operating license to permanently withdraw MYAPC's authority to operate the reactor and to load fuel in the reactor vessel. In this permanently shutdown condition, the facility poses a reduced risk to public health and safety. Due to this reduced risk, certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55 are no longer appropriate. An exemption is required from portions of 10 CFR 73.55 to allow the licensee to implement a revised Defueled Security Plan that is appropriate for the permanently shutdown and defueled reactor facility.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. The Commission concludes that exemption from certain portions of 10 CFR 73.55 are acceptable given the reduced consequences of the threat to a defueled reactor site with respect to public health and safety from an act of sabotage resulting in the release of radioactive material contained in the spent fuel.

The proposed change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely with the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the action would be to deny the request. Denial of the exemption request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to Operation of Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station, (July 1972).

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 14, 1998, the NRC staff consulted with Mr. Patrick Dostie of the State of Maine, Department of Human Services, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letter, dated November 25, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the Local Public Document Room at the Wiscasset Public Library, High Street, Post Office Box 367, Wiscasset, Maine 04578.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of June 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Seymour H. Weiss,

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

[FR Doc. 98–17218 Filed 6–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 70–7001; 70–7002]

Procedures for Managing Gaseous Diffusion Plant Backfit Requirements; Notice of Availability

On March 26, 1997, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a notice of availability of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Policy and Procedures Letter 1–53, ''GDP Plant Specific and Generic Backfit Management.'' This policy and procedures letter contains guidance and criteria for implementing the Gaseous Diffusion Plant backfit requirements of 10 CFR Part 76.76.

NRC received public comments on NMSS Policy and Procedures Letter 1–53, and has issued a revised version. This revised policy and procedures letter is available for inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW (lower level), Washington, DC; the Paducah Public Library, 555 Washington Street, Paducah, Kentucky 42003 (Docket No. 70–7001); and the Portsmouth Public Library, 1220 Gallia Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662 (Docket No. 70–7002).

For further information, contact Tom Wenck, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415–8088.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 15th day of June 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Malcolm R. Knapp,

Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 98–17216 Filed 6–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Plant License Renewal; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal will hold a meeting on July 16, 1998, Room T–2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Thursday, July 16, 1998—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will discuss the NRC staff's activities associated with license renewal, proposed staff's plans and schedule for reviewing the license renewal application and related safety issues. The Subcommittee will also discuss the ACRS involvement in reviewing the license renewal submittal and related matters. 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