60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer listed below by August 25, 1999. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given to comments received after this date.

Erik Godwin, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150–0010), NEOB–10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments can also be submitted by telephone at (202) 395–3087.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, 301–415–7233.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 99–19132 Filed 7–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–320]

GPU Nuclear, Inc., Three Mile Island, Unit 2; Exemption

I

GPU Nuclear, Inc. (the licensee), is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR–73, which authorizes the licensee to possess the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (TMI–2). The license states, in part, that the facility is subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) now or hereafter in effect. The facility consists of a pressurized-water reactor located at the licensee's site in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. The facility is permanently shut down and defueled and the licensee is no longer authorized to operate or place fuel in the reactor.

II

Section 50.54(w) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 50 (10 CFR part 50) requires power reactors to maintain onsite property damage insurance coverage in the amount of $1.06 billion. The NRC may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50 of the regulations, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), which (1) are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security and (2) present special circumstances. Special circumstances exist when application of the regulations in the particular circumstance would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule [10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii)]. The underlying purpose of § 50.54(w) is to provide sufficient property damage insurance coverage to ensure funding for onsite post-accident recovery, stabilization, and decontamination costs in the unlikely event of an accident at a nuclear power plant.

III

On March 9, 1999, the licensee requested exemption from the financial protection requirement limits of 10 CFR 50.54(w). The licensee requested that the amount of insurance coverage that it is required to maintain be reduced to $50 million for onsite property damage. The licensee stated that special circumstances exist because of the permanently shutdown and defueled condition of TMI–2.

The financial protection limits of 10 CFR 50.54(w) were established to require a licensee to maintain sufficient insurance to cover the costs of a nuclear accident at an operating reactor. Those costs were derived from the consequences of a release of radioactive material from the reactor. Although the risk of an accident at an operating reactor is very low, the consequences can be large. In an operating plant, the high temperature and pressure of the reactor coolant system, as well as the large inventory of relatively short-lived radionuclides, contribute to both the risk and consequences of an accident. In a permanently shutdown and defueled reactor facility, the reactor coolant system will never be operated and contains no short-lived radionuclides, which eliminates the possibility of reactor accidents. A further reduction in risk occurs when fuel is shipped offsite as in the case at TMI–2, where over 99 percent of the fuel has been removed and shipped offsite.

Along with the reduction in risk, the consequences of potential releases decrease after a reactor permanently shuts down and defuels. The short-lived radionuclides contained in the fuel, particularly volatile components such as iodines and noble gases decay, thereby, reducing the inventory of radioactive materials that are readily dispersible and transportable in air.

Although the risk and consequences of radiological releases decline substantially after a plant permanently defuels the reactor, they are not completely eliminated. There are potential onsite and offsite radiological consequences that can be associated with storage of activated reactor components, contaminated materials, and the remaining fuel debris at TMI–2. In addition, an inventory of liquid and solid radioactive wastes can be created during the future decontamination phases of the TMI–2 decommissioning process. For the purposes of modifying the amount of insurance coverage maintained by the licensee, the potential consequences, despite the very low risk, are an appropriate consideration.

In order to determine the insurance coverage sufficient for a permanently defueled facility, the cost of recovery from potential accident scenarios must be evaluated. At TMI–2, greater than 99 percent of the fuel debris has been removed and transported offsite. The remaining fuel debris is stored dry with no need for forced cooling. Loss of spent fuel cooling water accident scenarios are not applicable to the TMI–2 plant condition. In SECY 96–256, ''Changes to the Financial Protection Requirements for Permanently Shutdown Nuclear Power Reactors, 10 CFR 50.54(w) and 10 CFR 140.11,'' dated December 17, 1996, the NRC staff estimated the onsite cleanup costs of accidents considered to be the most costly at a permanently shut down reactor with spent fuel stored in the spent fuel pool. The staff found that the onsite recovery costs for a fuel handling accident could range up to $24 million. The estimated onsite cleanup costs to recover from the rupture of a large liquid radwaste storage tank could range up to $50 million. The licensee's proposed level of $50 million for onsite property insurance is sufficient to cover these estimated cleanup costs.

IV

The NRC staff has completed its review of the licensee's request to reduce financial protection limits to $50 million for onsite property insurance. The requested reductions are consistent with SECY 96–256. The Commission informed the staff in a staff requirements memo dated January 28, 1997, that it did not object to the insurance reductions recommended in SECY 96–256. The licensee's proposed financial protection limits will provide sufficient insurance to recover from the limiting hypothetical events, if they occur. Thus, the underlying purposes of the regulations will not be adversely affected by the reductions in insurance coverage.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), an exemption to reduce onsite property insurance to $50 million is

authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Further, special circumstances are present, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the licensee an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w).

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 (64 FR 39178). This exemption is effective immediately.

Dated at Rockville, MD., this 21st day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99–19161 Filed 7–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–245]

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al.; Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1; Notice of Public Meeting on the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff will conduct a public meeting at the Waterford Town Hall, 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut, on August 25, 1999, to provide an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues and concerns related to the Millstone, Unit 1 Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR). The PSDAR was submitted to the NRC by Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO, the licensee) on June 14, 1999.

The PSDAR is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room located at The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document rooms located at the Learning Resources Center, Three Rivers Community-Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, and at the Waterford Library, ATTN: Vince Juliano, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut. The NRC has also placed the PSDAR on the Internet at

[http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/reports/ms1061499.htm] (cover letter) and [http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/reports/1061499a.htm] (attached report).

Millstone, Unit 1, is located at a three-unit site operated by NNECO near the town of Waterford, Connecticut. The PSDAR focuses on decommissioning activities for Unit 1 only. It does not provide information on the operating activities related to Millstone Units 2 and 3. The August 25, 1999, meeting will be limited to issues related to Millstone, Unit 1 and the PSDAR. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m.-10 p.m., and will be moderated by Mr. Tony Sheridan, First Selectman, Town of Waterford. This meeting is a formal part of the NRC decommissioning process. There will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the NRC staff and NNECO representatives and to make comments related to the PSDAR. The meeting will be transcribed.

For more information, contact Louis L. Wheeler, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone 301–415–1444.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Louis L. Wheeler,

Senior Project Manager, Decommissioning Section, Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99–19131 Filed 7–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings

According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92–463), notice is hereby given that meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on—

Thursday, August 5, 1999
Thursday, September 16, 1999
Thursday, September 23, 1999

The meetings will start at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Room 5A06A, Office of Personnel Management Building, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal blue-collar employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies. Entitlement to membership on the Committee is provided for in 5 U.S.C. 5347.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates under subchapter IV, chapter 53, 5 U.S.C., as amended, and from time to time advise the Office of Personnel Management.

These scheduled meetings will start in open session with both labor and management representatives attending. During the meetings either the labor members or the management members may caucus separately with the Chair to devise strategy and formulate positions. Premature disclosure of the matters discussed in these caucuses would unacceptably impair the ability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the matters being considered and would disrupt substantially the disposition of its business. Therefore, these caucuses will be closed to the public because of a determination made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management under the provisions of section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92–463) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). These caucuses may, depending on the issues involved, constitute a substantial portion of a meeting.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded recommendations. These reports are available to the public, upon written request to the Committee's Secretary.

The public is invited to submit material in writing to the Chair on Federal Wage System pay matters felt to be deserving of the Committee's attention. Additional information on this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Committee's Secretary, Office of Personnel Management, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee, Room 5559, 1900 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415 (202) 606–1500.

Dated: July 21, 1999.

John F. Leyden,

Chairman, Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 99–19046 Filed 7–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–01–P