• *NRC's PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1–F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dominick Orlando, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–6749, email: *Dominick.orlando@nrc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The WNI is the holder of NRC Materials License No. SUA–56 for its former Split Rock Conventional Uranium Mill Site near Jeffrey City, Wyoming. The WNI has been an NRC licensee since 1958. The Split Rock Site ceased active uranium recovery operations in 1987 and has been engaging in final site reclamation activities since then. In 1971, WNI became a wholly owned subsidiary of PDC.

On March 12, 2007, WNI informed the NRC that the PDC would be acquired by Freeport (ADAMS Accession No. ML071080087). On September 5, 2007, WNI informed the NRC that the acquisition of WNI by Freeport had occurred (ADAMS Accession No. ML072710031). By letter dated July 22, 2009, WNI submitted a request to the NRC for Consent to Indirect License Transfer of NRC Materials License No. SUA–56 (ADAMS Accession No. ML092100247). On October 13, 2009, the NRC issued a notice of application for indirect change of control and provided interested individuals an opportunity to request a hearing (74 FR 52510).

On December 30, 2009, the NRC requested additional information from WNI on the indirect change of control (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML093480467 and ML093480453). The WNI responded on May 7, 2010 (the NRC staff was unable to locate this response in ADAMS and a copy was provided by WNI on January 13, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15036A423)). On July 27, 2010, the NRC requested additional information from WNI on the indirect change of control (ADAMS Accession No. ML102040700). On June 24, 2011, WNI provided information in response to the request for additional information (ADAMS Accession No. ML111860086). On December 2, 2014, the NRC requested additional information from WNI on the indirect change of control (ADAMS Accession No. ML14301A290). The WNI responded to the NRC's request on January 13, 2015 (ADAMS Package Accession No. ML15036A423).

The WNI's Materials License No. SUA–56 was issued under part 40 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), ''Domestic Licensing of Source Material.'' The Commission is required by 10 CFR 40.46 to determine if the change of control is in accordance with the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended and to give its consent in writing.

The NRC staff reviews requests for license transfers using the guidance in NUREG 1556, Volume 15, ''Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses-Guidance About Changes of Control and About Bankruptcy Involving Byproduct, Source, or Special Nuclear Materials Licenses,'' dated November 2000 (NUREG 1556, Vol. 15) (ADAMS Accession No. ML003778305). The purpose of the review is to determine whether the licensee, under the transaction, would continue to meet the regulatory requirements necessary to establish adequate financial assurance for decommissioning as required by 10 CFR part 40. As discussed in NUREG–1556, Volume 15, the NRC uses the term ''change of control'' rather than the statutory term ''transfer'' to describe the variety of events that could require prior notification and written consent of the NRC. The central issue is whether the authority over the license has changed. The WNI's request for consent to indirect change of control describes an indirect change of control resulting from a merger between PDC, WNI's former parent company, and Freeport. Following the merger, WNI became a wholly owned subsidiary of Freeport and, as such, the transfer requires NRC consent.

The NRC staff reviewed WNI's request for consent to an indirect change in control of its 10 CFR part 40 license using the guidance in NUREG 1556, Vol. 15. The NRC staff finds that the information submitted by WNI sufficiently describes and documents the commitments made by Freeport is consistent with the guidance in NUREG–1556, Vol. 15. An environmental assessment for this action is not required because this action is categorically excluded under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(21).

Based on the review summarized above, the NRC has approved the indirect change of control, although the licensee was required to obtain NRC consent prior to the indirect change of control occurring. The licensee has further committed in its next parent company guarantee submission to provide a parent company guarantee issued by Freeport to cover the remaining site reclamation costs. The WNI's request meets the requirements of 10 CFR 40.46(b)(1) and (2) as the request includes the identity and technical and financial qualifications of the proposed transferee, and WNI has committed to provide revised financial assurance for decommissioning, during the next parent company guarantee submittal, naming Freeport as parent company guarantor for the reclamation costs at the Split Rock Site.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of May 2015.
For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

Director, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 2015–12266 Filed 5–19–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–336; NRC–2015–0125]

Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., Millstone Power Station, Unit 2

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Exemption; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an exemption in response to an April 11, 2014, request from Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., requesting an exemption to use a different fuel rod cladding material (M5™, hereafter referred as M5).

DATES: May 20, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2015–0125 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

• Federal Rulemaking Web site: Go to *http://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket ID NRC–2015–0125. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301–415–3463; email: *Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov.* For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

• NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS): You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* To begin the search, select ''*ADAMS Public Documents*'' and then select ''*Begin Web-based ADAMS*

Search.'' For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to *pdr.resource@nrc.gov.* The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

• NRC's PDR: You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1–F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard V. Guzman, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–1030, email: *Richard.guzman@nrc.gov.*

I. Background

Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (the licensee) is the holder of Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR–65, which authorizes operation of Millstone Power Station, Unit 2 (MPS2), a pressurized water reactor. The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the NRC now or hereafter in effect.

The MPS2 shares the site with Millstone Power Station, Unit 1, a permanently defueled boiling water reactor nuclear unit, and Millstone Power Station, Unit 3, a pressurized water reactor. The facility is located in Waterford, Connecticut, approximately 3.2 miles west southwest of New London, Connecticut. This exemption applies to MPS2 only. The other units, Units 1 and 3, are not covered by this exemption.

II. Request/Action

Pursuant to section 50.12 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), ''Specific exemptions,'' the licensee has, by letter dated April 11, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14112A072), requested an exemption from 10 CFR 50.46, ''Acceptance criteria for emergency core cooling systems [ECCS] for light-water nuclear power reactors,'' and 10 CFR part 50, appendix K, ''ECCS Evaluation Models,'' to allow the use of fuel rod cladding with M5 alloy for future reload applications. The regulations in 10 CFR 50.46 contain acceptance criteria for the ECCS for reactors fueled with Zircaloy or ZIRLO® fuel rod cladding material. In addition, paragraph I.A.5 of appendix K to 10 CFR part 50 requires that the Baker-Just equation be used to predict the rates of energy release, hydrogen concentration, and cladding oxidation from the metal/water reaction. The Baker-Just equation assumes the use of a zirconium alloy, which is a material different from M5. Thus, the strict application of these regulations does not permit the use of fuel rod cladding material other than Zircaloy or ZIRLO®. Because the material specifications of M5 differ from the specifications for Zircaloy or ZIRLO®, and the regulations specify a cladding material other than M5, a plant-specific exemption is required to allow the use of, and application of these regulations to, M5 at MPS2.

The exemption request relates solely to the cladding material specified in these regulations (*i.e.,* fuel rods with Zircaloy or ZIRLO® cladding material). This exemption would allow application of the acceptance criteria of 10 CFR 50.46 and appendix K to 10 CFR part 50, to fuel assembly designs using M5 fuel rod cladding material. The licensee is not seeking an exemption from the acceptance and analytical criteria of these regulations. The intent of the request is to allow the use of the criteria set forth in these regulations for the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material at MPS2. The detailed technical basis of the licensee's proposed use of M5 cladding is being addressed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff under a proposed amendment to the MPS2 operating license; the amendment is issued concurrently with the issuance of this exemption.

III. Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50 when: (1) The exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security; and (2) when special circumstances are present. Under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), special circumstances include, among other things, when application of the specific regulation in the particular circumstance would not serve, or is not necessary to achieve, the underlying purpose of the rule.

A. Special Circumstances

Special circumstances, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), are present whenever application of the regulation in the particular circumstances is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. The underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.46 and appendix K to 10 CFR part 50 is to establish acceptance criteria for ECCS performance to provide reasonable assurance of safety in the event of a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). Although the regulations in 10 CFR 50.46 and appendix K to 10 CFR part 50 are not expressly applicable to M5 alloy cladding, the evaluations described in the following sections of this exemption show that the purpose of the regulations are met by this exemption, in that the effectiveness of the ECCS will not be affected by a change from Zircaloy or ZIRLO® clad fuel rod to M5 clad fuel rod. Normal reload safety analyses will confirm that there is no adverse impact on ECCS performance. Thus, a strict application of the rule (which would preclude the applicability of ECCS performance acceptance criteria to, and the use of, M5 fuel cladding material) is not necessary to achieve the underlying purposes of 10 CFR 50.46 and appendix K to 10 CFR part 50. The purpose of these regulations is achieved through application of the requirements to the use of M5 fuel rod clad material. Therefore, the special circumstances required by 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) for the granting of an exemption exist.

B. Authorized by Law

This exemption would allow the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material for future reload operations at MPS2. As stated above, 10 CFR 50.12 allows the NRC to grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50 provided that special circumstances are present. As described above, the NRC staff has determined that special circumstances exist to grant the requested exemption. In addition, granting the exemption will not result in a violation any part of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, or the Commission's regulations. Therefore, the exemption is authorized by law.

C. No Undue Risk to Public Health and Safety

Section 10 CFR 50.46 requires that each boiling or pressurized light-water nuclear power reactor fueled with uranium dioxide pellets within cylindrical Zircaloy or ZIRLO® cladding must be provided with an ECCS that must be designed so that its calculated cooling performance following a postulated LOCA conforms to the criteria set forth in paragraph (B) of this section. The underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.46 is to establish acceptance criteria for adequate ECCS performance.

The NRC-approved topical report BAW–10227(P)–A, ''Evaluation of Advanced Cladding and Structural Material (M5) in PWR Reactor Fuel'' (ADAMS Accession No. ML003686365) has demonstrated that predicted chemical, mechanical, and material performance characteristics of the M5

alloy cladding are bound for those approved for Zircaloy under anticipated operational occurrences and postulated accidents. The NRC staff's Safety Evaluation (ADAMS Accession No. ML003671021) evaluating this topical report concluded that the M5 properties and mechanical design methodology are acceptable for fuel reload licensing applications. Topical report BAW–10227(P)-A also confirms that no new or different type of accident will be initiated that could pose a risk to public health and safety.

The NRC-approved topical Report BAW–10240(P)–A, Revision 0, ''Incorporation of M5 Properties in Framatome-ANP Approved Methods'' (ADAMS Accession No. ML042800314) describes the incorporation of the NRC-approved M5 material properties in a set of mechanical analyses, small-break loss-of-coolant accident (SBLOCA) and non-LOCA methodologies. This topical report demonstrates that the effectiveness of the ECCS will not be affected by changing the cladding from Zircaloy to M5 alloy.

The objective of 10 CFR 50.46(b)(2) and (b)(3), and appendix K to 10 CFR part 50, paragraph I.A.5 is to ensure that cladding oxidation and hydrogen generation are appropriately limited during a LOCA and conservatively accounted for in a plant's ECCS evaluation model. Paragraph I.A.5 of appendix K requires that the Baker-Just equation be used in the ECCS evaluation model to determine the rate of energy release, cladding oxidation, and hydrogen generation. Based on the above, the NRC staff concludes that the intent of 10 CFR 50.46 and appendix K to 10 CFR part 50 will continue to be satisfied for the planned operation of MPS2 with M5 alloy fuel cladding and fuel assembly material.

D. Consistent With the Common Defense and Security

The M5 cladding material is similar in design to Zircaloy, the current cladding material used at MPS2. Thus, the change in cladding material from Zircaloy to M5 will not require any change to the security and control of special nuclear material. The licensee will continue to be required to handle and control special nuclear material in these assemblies in accordance with its approved procedures. This change to reactor core internals is adequately controlled by NRC requirements and is not related to security issues. Therefore, the NRC staff determined that this exemption does not impact, and thus is consistent with, the common defense and security.

E. Environmental Considerations

The NRC staff determined that the exemption discussed herein meets the eligibility criteria for the categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9) because it is related to a requirement concerning the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area, as defined in 10 CFR part 20, and issuance of this exemption involves: (i) no significant hazards consideration, (ii) no significant change in the types or a significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and (iii) no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the NRC's consideration of this exemption request. The basis for the NRC staff's determination is discussed as follows with an evaluation against each of the requirements in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(i)–(iii).

Requirements in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(i)

The NRC staff evaluated whether the exemption involves no significant hazards consideration using the standards described in 10 CFR 50.92(c), as presented below:

1. Does the proposed exemption involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

The proposed exemption would allow the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material in the MPS2 reactor. The NRC approved topical reports cited above demonstrate that M5 alloy has similar properties as the currently licensed Zircaloy. The fuel cladding itself is not a postulated initiator of previously evaluated accidents; thus, fuel cladding material does not affect the probability of occurrence of any accident. The consequences of none of the previously evaluated accidents were affected by fuel cladding material, and M5, likewise, is not expected to have any effect on the consequences of any previously evaluated accidents.

Therefore, the proposed exemption does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the proposed exemption create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

The use of M5 fuel rod cladding material will not result in changes in the operation or configuration of the facility. The above cited topical reports demonstrated that the material properties of M5 are similar to those of standard Zircaloy. Therefore, M5 fuel rod cladding material will perform similarly to those fabricated from standard Zircaloy. The fuel cladding itself is not a postulated initiator of previously evaluated accidents and does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident.

Therefore, the proposed exemption does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

3. Does the proposed exemption involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No.

The proposed exemption will not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety because it has been demonstrated that the material properties of the M5 alloy are not significantly different from those of standard Zircaloy. M5 alloy is expected to perform similarly to standard Zircaloy for all normal operating and accident scenarios. Use of M5 alloy does not require changing any of the current regulatory acceptance criteria, or relaxation of the methods of analysis.

Therefore, the proposed exemption does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

Based on the above evaluation of the standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92(c), the NRC staff concludes that the proposed exemption involves no significant hazards consideration. Accordingly, the requirements of 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(i) are met.

Requirements in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(ii)

The proposed exemption would allow the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material in the MPS2 reactor. M5 alloy has similar material properties and performance characteristics as the currently licensed Zircaloy cladding. Thus, the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material will not significantly change the types of effluents that may be released offsite, or significantly increase the amount of effluents that may be released offsite. Therefore, the requirements of 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(ii) are met.

Requirements in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(iii)

The proposed exemption would allow the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material in the reactors. M5 alloy has similar material properties and performance characteristics as the currently licensed Zircaloy cladding. Thus, the use of M5 fuel rod cladding material will not significantly increase individual occupational radiation exposure, or

significantly increase cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, the requirements of 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)(iii) are met.

Conclusion

Based on the above, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed exemption meets the eligibility criteria for the categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the NRC's proposed issuance of this exemption.

IV. Conclusions

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption 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. Also, special circumstances pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) are present. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46 and Appendix K to 10 CFR part 50, to allow the application of those criteria to, and the use of, M5 fuel rod cladding material at MPS2.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th Day of May, 2015.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Louise Lund,

Acting Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2015–12264 Filed 5–19–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. CP2015–9; Order No. 2483]

New Postal Product

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing concerning a modification to a Global Expedited Package Services 3 negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* May 21, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at *http://www.prc.gov*. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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III. Ordering Paragraphs

I. Introduction

On May 13, 2015, the Postal Service filed notice that it has agreed to a Modification to the existing Global Expedited Package Services 3 negotiated service agreement approved in this docket.[1] In support of its Notice, the Postal Service includes a redacted copy of the Modification and a certification of compliance with 39 U.S.C. 3633(a), as required by 39 CFR 3015.5. Notice, Attachments 1 and 2.

The Postal Service also filed the unredacted Modification and supporting financial information under seal. Notice at 1. The Postal Service seeks to incorporate by reference the Application for Non-Public Treatment originally filed in this docket for the protection of information that it has filed under seal. *Id.* at 1–2.

The Modification adds a new paragraph to Article 5 addressing the use of permit imprints, adds a new paragraph to Article 5 (text under seal), revises the minimum commitment in Article 11, and replaces Annex 2 (price charts). *Id.* at 1. The Postal Service intends the rates in the Modification to take effect June 1, 2015. *Id.* at 1. The Postal Service asserts that the Modification will not impair the ability of the contract to comply with 39 U.S.C. 3633. *Id.* Attachment 2.

II. Notice of Filing

The Commission invites comments on whether the changes presented in the Postal Service's Notice are consistent with the policies of 39 U.S.C. 3632, 3633, or 3642, 39 CFR 3015.5, and 39 CFR part 3020, subpart B. Comments are due no later than May 21, 2015. The public portions of these filings can be accessed via the Commission's Web site (*http://www.prc.gov*).

The Commission appoints Lyudmila Y. Bzhilyanskaya to represent the interests of the general public (Public Representative) in this docket.

III. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission reopens Docket No. CP2015–9 for consideration of matters raised by the Postal Service's Notice.
2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Lyudmila Y. Bzhilyanskaya to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.
3. Comments are due no later than May 21, 2015.
4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015–12119 Filed 5–19–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

[1] Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing Modification to Global Expedited Package Services 3 Negotiated Service Agreement, May 13, 2015 (Notice).

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Microbiome Research

ACTION: Notice of Request for Information

SUMMARY: Advanced sequencing technologies have illuminated vast networks of microorganisms that drive essential functions in all environments on Earth. The study of these communities of microorganisms, or microbiomes, is nascent, and the potential of microbiome research has only begun to be tapped. Primary to achieving this potential is a functional understanding of microbiomes, which would be greatly advanced by addressing fundamental questions common to all fields of microbiome research; developing platform technologies useful to all fields; and identifying gaps in training or fields of research that should be addressed. The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is interested in developing an effort to unify and focus microbiome research across sectors. The views of stakeholders—academic and industry researchers, private companies, and charitable foundations—are important to inform an understanding of current and future needs in diverse fields.

DATES: Responses must be received by June 15, 2015, to be considered.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email: MicrobiomeRFI@ostp.eop.gov.* Include [*Microbiome RFI*] in the subject line of the message.