

summarized by NASA and addressed in the Final EIS.

**Olga M. Dominguez,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for Institutional and Corporate Management.*

[FR Doc. 04-17264 Filed 7-28-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7510-01-P**

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 04-093]

### Government-Owned Inventions, Available for Licensing

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of prospective patent license.

**SUMMARY:** NASA hereby gives notice that Phoenix Systems International, Inc. of McDonald, OH, has applied for an exclusive worldwide (excluding the United States) license to practice the invention described and claimed in PCT Case No. KSC-12518-2-PCT entitled "Hydrogen Peroxide Catalytic Decomposition," which is assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Written objections to the prospective grant of an exclusive license to Phoenix Systems International, Inc. should be sent to Office of the Chief Counsel, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899.

**DATES:** Responses to this notice must be received by August 13, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Randy Heald, Patent Counsel/Assistant Chief Counsel, NASA, Office of the Chief Counsel, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Mail Code CC-A, Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899; telephone (321) 867-7214.

Dated: July 21, 2004.

**Keith T. Sefton,**

*Deputy General Counsel (Administration and Management).*

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## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice 04-094]

### Notice of Prospective Patent License

**AGENCY:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of prospective patent license.

**SUMMARY:** NASA hereby gives notice that PAC Materials, L.L.C., of Huntsville, Alabama, has applied for an exclusive license to practice the invention MFS-31828-1-PCT in Taiwan entitled "High-Strength Aluminum Alloy for High Temperature Applications," assigned to the United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Written objections to the prospective grant of a license should be sent to Mr. James J. McGroary, Chief Patent Counsel/LS01, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812. NASA has not yet made a determination to grant the requested license and may deny the requested license even if no objections are submitted within the comment period.

**DATES:** Responses to this notice must be received by August 13, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sammy A. Nabors, Technology Transfer Department/CD30, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812, (256) 544-5226.

Dated: July 21, 2004.

**Keith T. Sefton,**

*Deputy General Counsel (Administration and Management).*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499]

### South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company; South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of exemptions from title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46, and Appendix K, for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80, issued to South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee), for operation of South Texas Project Electric Generating Station (STPEGS), Units 1 and 2, located in Matagorda County, Texas. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt STPEGS, Units 1 and 2, from the

requirements of 10 CFR part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46 and Appendix K, to allow the use of up to eight Lead Test Assemblies (LTAs) fabricated with Optimized ZIRLO™, a cladding material that contains a nominally lower tin content than previously approved cladding materials.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated May 27, 2004.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

As the nuclear industry pursues longer operating cycles with increased fuel discharge burnups and more aggressive fuel management, the corrosion performance specifications for the nuclear fuel cladding become more demanding. Industry data indicates that corrosion resistance improves for cladding with a lower tin content. The optimum tin level provides a reduced corrosion rate while maintaining the benefits of mechanical strengthening and resistance to accelerated corrosion from abnormal chemistry conditions. In addition, fuel rod internal pressures (resulting from the increased fuel duty, use of integral fuel burnable absorbers, and corrosion/temperature feedback effects) have become more limiting with respect to fuel rod design criteria. By reducing the associated corrosion buildup, and thus, minimizing temperature feedback effects, additional margin to fuel rod internal pressure design criteria is obtained.

As part of a program to address these issues, the Westinghouse Electric Company has developed an LTA program, in cooperation with the licensee, that includes a fuel cladding with a tin content lower than the currently licensed range for ZIRLO™. The NRC's regulations in 10 CFR part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46, and Appendix K, make no provision for use of fuel rods clad in a material other than Zircalloy or ZIRLO™. The licensee has requested the use of up to eight LTAs with a tin composition that is less than that specified in the licensing basis for ZIRLO™, as defined in Westinghouse design specifications. Therefore, use of the LTAs calls for exemptions from 10 CFR part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46, and Appendix K.

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff has completed its safety evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemptions would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed, and would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents that may be released offsite.