

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-346]

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering withdrawal of an exemption from title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 50, Appendix R, subsection III.L.1 for Facility Operating License No. NPF-3, issued to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC or the licensee), for operation of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS), located in Ottawa County, Ohio. 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 withdraw an exemption to 10 CFR part 50, Appendix R, subsection III.L.1, regarding the plant's capability to achieve cold shutdown within 72 hours by the alternative shutdown process, independent of offsite power.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated December 17, 2003.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The action is proposed because the licensee has now determined that DBNPS can achieve cold shutdown within 72 hours by the alternative shutdown process independent of offsite power; therefore, the exemption is no longer required.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemption withdrawal does not involve radioactive wastes, release of radioactive material into the atmosphere, solid radioactive waste, or liquid effluents released to the environment.

The DBNPS systems were evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) dated October 1975 (NUREG 75/097). The proposed exemption withdrawal will not involve any change in the waste treatment systems described in the FES.

The proposed action will not significantly 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 occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). 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

The action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in the DBNPS FES dated October 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On April 16, 2004, the staff consulted with Ohio State official, C. O'Claire of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC 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 December 17, 2003 (ADAMS ML033600026). Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1-F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.

Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public

Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of May, 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jon B. Hopkins,

Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate III, Section 2, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Meeting Notice**

In accordance with the purposes of Sections 29 and 182b. of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2039, 2232b), the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) will hold a meeting on June 2-4, 2004, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The date of this meeting was previously published in the **Federal Register** on Monday, November 21, 2003 (68 FR 65743).

Wednesday, June 2, 2004, Conference Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland

8:30 a.m.-8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:35 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Draft Final 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors" (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) regarding the draft final 10 CFR 50.69, and draft final Regulatory Guide DG-1121, "Guidelines for Categorizing Structures, Systems, and Components in Nuclear Power Plants According to Their Safety Significances," which endorses NEI 00-04, "10 CFR 50.69 SSC Categorization Guideline."

10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.: Revised License Renewal Review Process (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff

regarding the revised process for the staff's review of the license renewal applications.

12:45 p.m.–1:15 p.m.: Preparation for Meeting with the NRC Commissioners (Open)—The Committee will discuss the following topics scheduled for the ACRS meeting with the NRC Commissioners: PWR Sump Performance, PRA Quality for Decisionmaking, Risk-Informing 10 CFR 50.46, NRC Safety Research Program Report, Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) Pre-Application Review, and Interim Review of the AP1000 Design.

1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.: Meeting with the NRC Commissioners, Commissioners' Conference Room, One White Flint North, Rockville, MD (Open)—The Committee will meet with the NRC Commissioners to discuss the topics noted above.

4 p.m.–5:30 p.m.: Digital Instrumentation and Control System Research Activities (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff and their contractors regarding NRC research activities in the area of digital instrumentation and control (I&C) systems and related matters.

5:45 p.m.–6:45 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports on matters considered during this meeting.

Thursday, June 3, 2004, Conference Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland

8:30 a.m.–8:35 a.m.: Opening Remarks by the ACRS Chairman (Open)—The ACRS Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of the meeting.

8:35 a.m.–10:30 a.m.: NRC Staff's Response to the ACRS Report on the AP1000 Design (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding their response to ACRS comments and recommendations included in the March 17, 2004 ACRS report on the AP1000 design.

10:45 a.m.–12 Noon: Proposed Revisions to Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections and Process and Schedule for Revising the SRP (Open)—The Committee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff regarding the proposed revisions to SRP Sections: 5.2.3, "Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Materials;" 5.3.1, "Reactor Vessel Materials;" and 5.3.3, "Reactor Vessel Integrity;" as well as the process and schedule for revising

various SRP Sections, including milestones for ACRS review of the proposed revisions.

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.: Future ACRS Activities/Report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee (Open)—The Committee will discuss the recommendations of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee regarding items proposed for consideration by the full Committee during future meetings. Also, it will hear a report of the Planning and Procedures Subcommittee on matters related to the conduct of ACRS business, including anticipated workload and member assignments.

2:30 p.m.–2:45 p.m.: Reconciliation of ACRS Comments and Recommendations (Open)—The Committee will discuss the responses from the NRC Executive Director for Operations (EDO) to comments and recommendations included in recent ACRS reports and letters. The EDO responses are expected to be made available to the Committee prior to the meeting.

3 p.m.–6:30 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will discuss proposed ACRS reports.

Friday, June 4, 2004, Conference Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, Rockville, Maryland

8:30 a.m.–11 a.m.: Metrics for Evaluating the Quality of the NRC Research Programs (Open)—The Committee will discuss the quantitative metrics for use by the ACRS in evaluating the quality of the NRC research programs.

11 a.m.–4 p.m.: Preparation of ACRS Reports (Open)—The Committee will continue its discussion of proposed ACRS reports.

4 p.m.–4:30 p.m.: Miscellaneous (Open)—The Committee will discuss matters related to the conduct of Committee activities and matters and specific issues that were not completed during previous meetings, as time and availability of information permit.

Procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on October 16, 2003 (68 FR 59644). In accordance with those procedures, oral or written views may be presented by members of the public, including representatives of the nuclear industry. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during the open portions of the meeting. Persons desiring to make oral statements should notify the Cognizant ACRS staff named below five days before the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the

meeting for such statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras during the meeting may be limited to selected portions of the meeting as determined by the Chairman.

Information regarding the time to be set aside for this purpose may be obtained by contacting the Cognizant ACRS staff prior to the meeting. In view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with the Cognizant ACRS staff if such rescheduling would result in major inconvenience.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, as well as the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefore can be obtained by contacting Mr. Sam Duraiswamy, Cognizant ACRS staff (301-415-7364), between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., ET.

ACRS meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available through the NRC Public Document Room at pdr@nrc.gov, or by calling the PDR at 1-800-397-4209, or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS) which is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> or <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/> (ACRS & ACNW Mtg schedules/agendas).

Videoteleconferencing service is available for observing open sessions of ACRS meetings. Those wishing to use this service for observing ACRS meetings should contact Mr. Theron Brown, ACRS Audio Visual Technician (301-415-8066), between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., ET, at least 10 days before the meeting to ensure the availability of this service. Individuals or organizations requesting this service will be responsible for telephone line charges and for providing the equipment and facilities that they use to establish the videoteleconferencing link. The availability of videoteleconferencing services is not guaranteed.

Dated: May 13, 2004.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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