requirement from which CBS seeks an exemption in its December 6, 2007, submittal.

Therein, CBS notes that the purpose of the approved DP was to dismantle and remove TR components to the point that there would no longer be a utilization (reactor) facility remaining on the site. These actions would then allow the residual radioactive materials, structures, and equipment associated with the former TR to be transferred to the Westinghouse SNM-770 materials license for further remediation to the extent necessary. After all principal licensed activities at the Waltz Mill Site cease, the residual radioactive materials, structures, and equipment associated with the former TR, along with other buildings and lands covered by their existing license, will be decommissioned by Westinghouse in accordance with the State of Pennsylvania's requirements. As discussed below, the NRC finds that the requested exemption is warranted.

## B. Requirements for Granting Exemptions From 10 CFR Part 50

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(1), the NRC must find that granting the requested exemption is authorized by law, will not present any undue risk to the public health and safety and would be consistent with the common defense and security. Because the TR-2 radioactive materials will remain under an NRC's Agreement State's License (PA-1053S) held by Westinghouse, they will be fully subject to appropriate regulatory authority and control. Full decommissioning at the Waltz Mill Site may safely be deferred until such time that all licensed activities there cease. The NRC thus finds that the requirements of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(1) are met.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), the NRC must also find, in granting any exemption, that at least one of several enumerated "special circumstances" are present. In this regard, CBS maintains that the special circumstance here is that the application of 10 CFR 52.82(b)(6)(ii) to this case is unnecessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule, which is to provide for safe decommissioning and license termination. The NRC agrees, and finds that CBS has met the requirements of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) for granting an exemption. The basis for this finding is that Westinghouse has assumed complete responsibility for the safe decommissioning of the Waltz Mill Site, initially under its materials license SNM-770, and now under PA-1053S.

An environmental assessment does not need to be performed as this action

falls within the class of actions categorically excluded by 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11). The proposed action is administrative and procedural in nature. NRC staff has evaluated the granting of this exemption request and has determined the granting of the exemption is consistent with the staff's March 17, 2006 letter, and that the proposed action to terminate the license has also occurred in accordance within the guidance of the staff's March 17th letter.

## Conclusion

The NRC is granting an exemption from 10 CFR 50.82(b)(6)(ii) and is terminating the license of the TR following the transfer of the radioactive materials, structures and equipment of the TR to Westinghouse LLC, the holder of the PA-1053S license for the remainder of the Waltz Mill Site. This is in accordance with the 2007 arbitration opinion and award.

With the SNM-770 license amended and transferred to the State of Pennsylvania and the TR-2 license terminated, the PA-1053S license will be the only license in effect for radioactive materials at the Waltz Mill Site. Westinghouse, as the remaining licensee on the Site, will now be solely responsible for the safe and environmentally acceptable possession and management of radioactive materials on the Waltz Mill Site, and the later remediation and decommissioning of the Waltz Mill Site.

For further details with respect to the above action, see CBS's letter dated December 6, 2007 and the NRC's letter to the CBS Corporation terminating the TR-2 license (ML081330398). The above referenced documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) at One White Flint North, 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/readingrm/adams.html. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who have problems in accessing the documents in ADAMS should call the NRC PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or e-mail *pdr@nrc.gov*.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this the 19th day of September 2008.

### Keith I. McConnell,

Deputy Director, Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs.

[FR Doc. E8–22533 Filed 9–24–08; 8:45 am] **BILLING CODE 7590–01–P** 

# NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Availability of Memorandum of Understanding Between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Environmental Reviews Related to the Issuance of Authorizations To Construct and Operate Nuclear Power Plants

SUMMARY: On September 12, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which establishes a framework for early coordination and participation among the agencies. The MOU is an effort to facilitate the timely review of proposed nuclear power plant applications and it establishes a commitment to early agency involvement; proactive participation and informal communication throughout the review process; sharing of information gathered, considered and relied upon by each agency; and, if requested, interagency participation in public hearings. Interagency cooperation under the MOU will facilitate each agency's compliance with its review responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and other related statutes with respect to the authorizations required to construct and operate nuclear power plants licensed by the NRC. It is anticipated that the Corps will act as a cooperating agency in most circumstances; however, the MOU does not preclude different forms of coordination (e.g., Corps participation as a consulting agency).

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Richard Emch, Environmental
Technical Support Branch, Division of
Site and Environmental Reviews, Office
of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear
Regulatory Commission, Rockville, MD
20854, 301–415–1590, or Paul Michalak,
Environmental Projects Branch 2,
Division of Site and Environmental
Reviews, Office of New Reactors, U.S.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Rockville, MD 20854, 301–415–7612.

The MOU between the NRC and the Corps is entitled "Memorandum of Understanding between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Environmental Reviews Related to the Issuance of Authorizations to Construct and Operate Nuclear Power Plants" and is attached to this notice. The MOU was signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and by the Executive Director for Operations for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on September 12, 2008.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of September, 2008.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. **Scott C. Flanders**,

Director, Division of Site and Environmental Reviews, Office of New Reactors.

Memorandum of Understanding Between U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Environmental Reviews Related to the Issuance of Authorizations to Construct and Operate Nuclear Power Plants

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), as parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), hereby acknowledge and declare as follows:

#### I. Introduction

The Corps and the NRC developed this MOU to streamline the respective regulatory processes associated with the authorizations required to construct and operate nuclear power plants.

#### II. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for early coordination and participation among the signatories to this agreement to ensure the timely review of proposed nuclear power plant applications. Cooperation among the MOU signatories will ensure each agency's review responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other related statutes are met in connection with the authorizations required to construct and operate nuclear power plants licensed by the NRC. Both parties anticipate that the Corps will act as a cooperating agency in most circumstances. However, there may be some circumstances where both agencies will be better served by a different form of coordination. This MOU does not preclude such arrangements.

# III. Statutory Background

A. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) requires all agencies of the Federal Government to use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach that will ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences in planning and decisionmaking that may have an impact on man's environment. Prior to making any detailed statement, the responsible Federal official shall consult with and obtain the comments of any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with

respect to any environmental impact involved.

B. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps, for the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States. Structures or work outside the limits defined for navigable waters of the United States require a Section 10 permit if the structure or work affects the course, location, or condition of the water body. The law applies to any dredging or disposal of dredged materials, excavation, filling, rechannelization, or any other modification of a navigable water of the United States, and it applies to all structures, from the smallest floating dock to the largest commercial undertaking. It further includes, without limitation, any wharf, dolphin, weir, boom breakwater, jetty, groin, bank protection (e.g., riprap, revetment, bulkhead), mooring structure such as a piling, aerial or subaqueous power transmission line, intake or outfall pipe, permanently moored floating vessel, tunnel, artificial canal, boat ramp, aid to navigation, and any other permanent or semipermanent obstacle or obstruction.

C. Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344) requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps, for the discharge of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. Discharges of fill material generally include, without limitation, placement of fill that is necessary for the construction of any structure or impoundment requiring rock, sand, dirt, or other material for its construction; sitedevelopment fills for recreational, industrial, commercial, residential, and other uses; causeways or road fills; dams and dikes; artificial islands; property protection or reclamation devices such as riprap, groins, seawalls, breakwaters, and revetments; beach nourishment; levees; fill for intake and outfall pipes and sub-aqueous utility lines; fill associated with the creation of ponds; and any other work involving the discharge of fill or dredged material. A Corps permit is required whether the work is permanent or temporary. Examples of temporary discharges include dewatering of dredged material prior to final disposal, and temporary fills for access roadways, cofferdams, and storage and work areas.

D. Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413), as amended, requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps, for the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of dumping it in ocean waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into territorial seas also require authorization under Section 404 of the CWA.

E. Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1333) extends the authority of the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps, to the prevention of obstruction to navigation in the navigable waters of the United States due to the construction of artificial islands and fixed structures on the outer continental shelf beyond the territorial sea.

F. Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–438 (88 Stat. 1233)) abolished the

Atomic Energy Commission, and Section 201 of that Act created the NRC and transferred to the NRC all the licensing and related regulatory functions of the Atomic Energy Commission. Pursuant to the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974; Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10, and 16 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.; and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, the NRC is authorized to license and regulate the construction and operation of, among other things, nuclear power plants from the standpoint of the common defense and security and public health and safety.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

NRC. The NRC licenses nuclear power plants in accordance with its regulations such that the utilization of special nuclear material will be in accord with the common defense and security and will provide adequate protection to the health and safety of the public.

Corps. The Corps administers a regulatory program to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, including wetlands, under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the CWA. Proposed nuclear power plants may require one or more permits from the Corps under these statutes.

NEPA Lead Federal Agency. NEPA is the overarching environmental statute requiring the identification of impacts to the quality of the human environment, consideration of alternatives, and public involvement in the process. A primary objective of NEPA is to ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before irretrievable commitments of resources are made. This agreement supports these principles, and the signatory Federal agencies acknowledge their respective responsibilities for complying with the requirements of NEPA. To prevent the duplication of efforts by Federal agencies and to encourage information sharing and integration of agency processes, NEPA allows for the designation of a lead Federal agency for the preparation of environmental impact statements (EISs) when EISs are required. Other agencies that have an action on the same project may serve as cooperating agencies on the EIS.1

The issuance by the NRC of a license to construct and operate a nuclear power plant is an action that normally requires the preparation of an EIS.² As the agency with the approval/disapproval authority for the licensing of nuclear power plants, the NRC shall serve as the lead agency for the preparation of the EIS. This MOU encourages early involvement between the NRC and the Corps and with the public and other government agencies during the NEPA evaluation process.

This MOU acknowledges that it is critically important that the NRC receive project-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions—Scope", 40 CFR 1501.5 "NEPA and Agency Planning—Lead Agencies"; 40 CFR 1501.6, "NEPA and Agency Planning— Cooperating Agencies."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 10 CFR 51.20, "Criteria for and Identification of Licensing and Regulatory Actions Requiring Environmental Impact Statements."

specific information on waters of the United States, including wetlands, from the Corps at key stages of project development to foster an efficient procedure to develop documentation to meet both agencies' disclosure and decisionmaking requirements. This Agreement establishes a process to facilitate the timely licensing and permitting of nuclear power plants, whereby both agencies will do the following:

- Work together and with applicants and other stakeholders, as appropriate, including before complete applications for the necessary authorizations are filed.
- Identify and resolve issues as quickly as possible.
- Attempt to build a consensus among governmental agencies and their stakeholders.
- Provide for the effective and efficient environmental review for nuclear power plants.

Project purpose and need coordination. As the lead agency under NEPA responsible for the preparation of the analysis and decisions for the approval of new and expanded nuclear power plants, the NRC is responsible for determining the purpose and need of the energy project for purposes of the NRC's NEPA document and the NRC licensing process.3 The NRC should coordinate early on the scope of the NEPA analysis for all activities under Federal purview and ensure that the purpose and need, the suite of alternatives, and the evaluation presented in the NEPA document consider the views of the Corps (e.g., defining project purpose per Section 404 of the CWA ["basic" for water dependency and "overall" for geographic scope of alternative analysis, conducting the Corps" public interest review, determining the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative under the CWA Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines). The Corps will complete an independent permit decision in carrying out its regulatory responsibilities.

The signatory agencies may develop additional guidance to ensure that the Corps' permit documentation is prepared concurrently with the NEPA process to the maximum extent practicable. When the NRC provides to the Corps its preliminary draft NEPA documents, the Corps shall review and provide written comments on the relevant portions of those documents, as appropriate, in accordance with the timelines established under this MOU. Preliminary draft NRC NEPA documents include advance copies of the purpose, need, and alternatives sections of the NRC NEPA documents, as well as advance copies of the draft and final NEPA documents. Corps reviews of NRC NEPA documents will be completed and coordinated with the NRC as stated in the NRC EIS schedule for that project.

The Corps and the NRC hereby agree to work with each other and with other participating agencies or entities, as appropriate, to ensure that timely decisions are made and that the responsibilities of each agency are met. Specifically, each agency agrees to do the following:

A. Commit to Early Involvement:

- 1. Conduct an early initial review. As soon as practicable when a prospective applicant or an agency makes a request for involvement in connection with a project under development, each agency will assess its role in the review and issuance of approvals for the project.
- a. Identify agency contacts for the proposed project. If a prospective applicant or agency needs assistance in determining regional, local, or project specific contacts, then the identified contacts will assist in identifying additional contacts. The initial agency contacts are the following:

Department of the Army Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army

(Civil Works), 108 Army Pentagon 2E641, Washington, DC 20310–0108;

Regulatory Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20314;

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; Division of Site and Environmental Reviews, Office of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

b. Meet with prospective applicants and other agencies, when requested by the prospective applicant, the lead agency, or at its own initiative, to identify areas of potential concern to other agencies and to assess the need for and availability of agency resources to address issues related to the proposed project.

c. Consult with the NRC, as the lead agency, in establishing a schedule. The NRC will notify the Corps as early as possible of upcoming applications for the construction and operation of nuclear power plants and identify those projects that will be subject to this agreement. The lead agency will then, taking into consideration the relative priorities of other projects subject to this agreement, establish a commensurate schedule for the project review process. In establishing this schedule, the NRC and the Corps will strive to ensure that the individual permitting processes and related permit review activities occur on a concurrent, rather than sequential, basis, with the objective of avoiding unnecessary delays in the process and the schedule established by the NRC. If at any point during the consultation process the Corps or the NRC anticipates an inability to comply with the agreed-upon schedule, it will communicate the reason for this inability as soon as possible. The agencies will then work together to help avoid the anticipated delay when appropriate. The NRC will include in any Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS guidance to the public regarding the process set forth in this Agreement.

B. Proactive participation. After an application is submitted to the NRC, the Corps will do the following:

- 1. Identify and inform the NRC and the applicant which statutes, regulations, and policies apply to each permit evaluation.
- 2. Identify the issues and concerns related to the proposed project that need to be addressed in order for the Corps to meet its obligations.
- 3. Provide the prospective applicant, the applicant, and/or other agency with relevant studies, data (such as maps showing features over which the agency may have jurisdiction), and any other information concerning the status of matters the agency considers relevant (including matters that may be under consideration, such as the results of threatened and endangered species consultation, or essential fish habitat consultation).
- 4. Identify issues and concerns and attempt to resolve them while draft documentation is being developed.
- C. Sharing of data. The agencies will share the information gathered, considered, and relied upon by each of them with all other relevant agencies. Specifically, the NRC and the Corps agree to do the following:
- 1. Cooperate in the preparation of requests for additional studies or data to avoid duplicative requests and to compile a consistent set of information on which all of the agencies will rely.

2. Cooperate in identifying and developing the information at the level of detail required to complete environmental and cultural resources project review.

The NRC will be responsible for drafting sections and requesting additional information to the extent that the NRC believes the analysis is needed and would normally be required by the NRC if the Corps were not involved. If the Corps believes that additional analysis is needed, but the NRC does not agree that such analysis would be required under the regulatory procedures of the NRC, such analysis will be the responsibility of the Corps.

D. Communicate informally. The agencies agree to informally communicate with each other and other relevant agencies throughout the process to ensure that issues are raised as soon as possible and shared among all agencies. The lead agency will coordinate and share information with all relevant participating agencies.

E. Hearings. On request, each agency will participate in any public hearings <sup>4.5</sup> held by the other agency. Particularly in the case of NRC hearings, the Corps may provide expert testimony, as required, in those areas or sections covered in the NRC EIS in whose preparation the Corps participated and in those areas of special Corps expertise. The Corps' participation in the NRC hearing process will be consistent with all relevant laws and regulations and coordinated with appropriate District and Division Commanders or their representatives.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," Subpart A, "National Environmental Policy Act—Regulations Implementing Section 102(2)."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 33 CFR 327.3(a)—Public hearing means a public proceeding conducted for the purpose of acquiring information or evidence which will be considered in evaluating a proposed Department of the Army permit action, or Federal project, and which affords the public an opportunity to present their views, opinions, and information on such permit actions or Federal projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Atomic Energy Act requires that a public hearing be held before a construction permit is

#### V. Administration of the MOU

A. While retaining ultimate responsibility for making determinations and exercising their individual responsibilities in accordance with existing statutory responsibilities, the NRC and the Corps will consult with one another to resolve disputes using existing dispute resolution methods and in accordance with this agreement. If no agreement can be reached, either agency may refer the matter to the Council on Environmental Quality in accordance with 40 CFR 1504, "Predecision Referrals to the Council of Proposed Federal Actions Determined To Be Environmentally Unsatisfactory." Notwithstanding any such referral, the NRC reserves the right to make a final decision on any matter within the NRC's regulatory authority.

B. This MOU may be modified, amended, or terminated upon written request of any party hereto and the subsequent written concurrence of all other participating agencies. Participation in this agreement may be terminated 60 days after providing written notice of such termination to other participating agencies.

C. Acknowledgement that the authority and responsibilities of the parties under their respective jurisdictions are not altered by the MOU.

1. This MOU is intended only to improve the working relationships of the participating agencies in connection with expeditious decisions with regard to nuclear power plant authorizations and is not intended to, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by any person or party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any other person.

2. This MOU is to be construed in a manner consistent with all effective existing laws and regulations.

3. The MOU neither expands nor is in derogation of those powers and authorities vested in the participating agencies by applicable laws, statutes, or regulations.

4. The terms of this MOU are not intended to be enforceable by any party other than the signatories hereto.

5. The participating agencies intend to fully carry out the terms of this MOU. All provisions in this MOU, however, are subject to available resources. In addition, this MOU does not limit the ability of any of the participating agencies to review and respond to final applications.

6. If an applicant, prospective applicant, or other person requests a correction of information disseminated pursuant to this MOU, as authorized by Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Pub. L. 106–554), the process by which such request will be addressed will be that established by the agency that disseminated the information.

7. This MOU cannot be used to obligate or commit funds or as the basis for the transfer of funds.

issued for a nuclear power plant. The hearing will be conducted by the Commission or by a presiding officer designated by the Commission pursuant to 10 CFR 2.313, "Designation of Presiding Officer, Disqualification, Unavailability, and Substitution." 8. Nothing in this MOU, in and of itself, requires any signatory agency to enter into any contract, grant, or interagency agreement.

9. All provisions in this MOU are subject to the availability of funds.

Accordingly, the parties have signed this MOU on the dates set forth below, to be effective for all purposes as of the date last signed. The signatures may be executed using counterpart original documents.

September 12, 2008.

John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).

September 12, 2008.

R. W. Borchardt,

Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

[FR Doc. E8–22528 Filed 9–24–08; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

# NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-263]

In the Matter of: Nuclear Management Company, LLC; Northern States Power Company; (Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant); Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR–22; Order Approving Transfer of License and Conforming Amendment

I.

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM) and Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) are holders of Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR–22, which authorizes the possession, use, and operation of Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (Monticello). NSPM is authorized to possess, and NMC is authorized to use and operate Monticello. The facility is located at the licensees' site in Wright County, Minnesota.

#### П.

By letter dated April 16, 2008, as supplemented by letter dated August 6, 2008, NSPM and NMC requested approval for NSPM to acquire from NMC the operating authority of the facility following approval of the proposed license transfer. Subsequently, NSPM will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of MNGP. NMC will be integrated into the current NSPM organization, which would be the sole entity holding both the ownership and operating authority of MNGP.

The applicants also requested approval of a conforming license amendment that would replace references to NMC in the license with references to NSPM to reflect the transfer of operating authority under the

applicable conditions and authorizations included in the Monticello license. The applicants proposed no physical changes to the facility or operational changes. After completion of the proposed transfer, NSPM would become the operator, as well as continue to be the owner of the facility.

Approval of the transfer of the licensed operating authority and conforming license amendment is requested by the applicants pursuant to Sections 50.80 and 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR). Notice of the request for approval and opportunity for a hearing were published in the **Federal Register** on June 5, 2008 (73 FR 32057). No comments and no petitions to intervene were received.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. Upon review of the information in the application and other information before the Commission, and relying upon the representations and agreements contained in the application, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has determined that NSPM is qualified to continue to hold the ownership interests in the facility, and is qualified to acquire and hold the operating authority previously held by NMC, and that the transfer of the operating interests in the facility to NSPM described in the application is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission, subject to the conditions set forth below. The NRC staff has further found that the application for the proposed license amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I; the facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission; there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the proposed license amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public and that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations; the issuance of the proposed license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and the issuance of the proposed amendment will be in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the