

Signed at Washington, DC, this 7th day of September 2004.

Ivan L. Strasfeld,

Director, Office of Exemption Determinations, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 04-20538 Filed 9-10-04; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Advisory Committee for Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

Name: Advisory Committee for Computer and Information Science and Engineering—(1115).

Date and Time: October 22, 2004; 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 1235, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Gwen Barber-Blount, Office of the Assistant Director, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1105, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 292-8900.

Minutes: May be obtained from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To advise NSF on the impact of its policies, programs and activities on the CISE community. To provide advice to the Assistant Director/CISE on issues related to long-range planning, and to form ad hoc subcommittees to carry out needed studies and tasks.

Agenda: Report from the Assistant Director; discussion of education, diversity, workforce issues in IT; cyberinfrastructure; long-range funding outlook and proposal success rates.

Dated: September 7, 2004.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 04-20562 Filed 9-3-04; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-25]

Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation; Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding a Proposed Exemption

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the

provisions of 10 CFR 72.102(f)(1) to Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC or applicant). The requested exemption would allow FWENC to use a probabilistic approach along with considerations of risk to establish the design earthquake (DE) ground motion levels at the Idaho Spent Fuel (ISF) Facility, instead of the deterministic methodology of 10 CFR 100, Appendix A. FWENC submitted the exemption request as part of its November 19, 2001, license application for the ISF Facility, an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) to be located at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Identification of Proposed Action: The applicant requested an exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR 72.102(f)(1) which states that, "The design earthquake (DE) for use in the design of structures must be determined as follows: (1) For sites that have been evaluated under the criteria of Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 100, the DE must be equivalent to the safe shutdown earthquake (SSE) for a nuclear power plant." The regulation at 10 CFR 72.102(b) requires that, for sites west of the Rocky Mountains, such as the ISF Facility site, seismicity must be evaluated using the techniques of 10 CFR Part 100, Appendix A. The requested exemption would allow the applicant to calculate the DE for the proposed facility using an alternate method.

The proposed action before the Commission is whether to grant this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7.

Need for the Proposed Action: The applicant has requested a license to construct and operate the ISF Facility, as described in its license application, dated November 19, 2001, on behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE). FWENC will be the license holder for the ISF Facility, which would be the second NRC-licensed ISFSI at the INEEL. The proposed facility will be adjacent to the existing ISFSI for the TMI-2 fuel debris, and close to the DOE facilities currently storing the spent fuel to be moved to the ISF Facility. The ISF Facility represents an additional milestone in the 1995 settlement agreement among DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho regarding the disposition of spent nuclear fuel at INEEL.

The exemption would allow the applicant to use risk-informed methods including a probabilistic seismic hazards analysis (PSHA) to define the design earthquake for the ISF Facility.

This DE is a critical assumption for the design of the facility structures, systems, and components (SSCs) important to safety. These SSCs must be designed to withstand the effects of natural phenomena, including earthquakes, without impairing their capability to perform their safety functions. For sites west of the Rocky Mountains, including the ISF Facility site, 10 CFR 72.102(b) requires that seismicity be evaluated using techniques set forth in Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 100 for nuclear power plants. In applying that appendix, the applicant would be required to define the DE as the most significant earthquake postulated to occur at that site, irrespective of its frequency, or the estimated time the facility would be operational. This would result in unwarranted conservatism in the design and construction of the facility, placing an unnecessary burden on the applicant, increasing overall project costs and delaying implementation of this phase of the settlement agreement between DOE and the State of Idaho.

The NRC staff has evaluated the proposed exemption in its preliminary safety evaluation report (SER) for the ISF Facility, dated July 29, 2004. In the SER, the staff concludes that there are sufficient technical and regulatory bases to grant an exemption to 10 CFR 72.102(f) at the time a license is issued for the ISF Facility. These bases are that: (i) The probability and risk-informed analyses performed by the applicant demonstrate that the SSCs important to safety will maintain their capability to protect public health and safety, even considering earthquake ground motions more severe than the proposed DE; (ii) the applicant's exemption request is similar to previous exemption requests found acceptable by the NRC staff for the TMI-2 ISFSI and the Private Fuel Storage Facility; and (iii) the applicant's methods and analyses are consistent with the probabilistic approach and corresponding design earthquake values allowed under the recently added regulations in 10 CFR 72.103, as described in the associated regulatory guidance in NRC Regulatory Guide 3.73.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The NRC staff previously evaluated the environmental impacts resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the ISF Facility, and determined that such impacts would be acceptably small. The staff's conclusions are documented in the "Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Butte County, Idaho (Final Report), NUREG-1773," issued in