

operation of the Peach Bottom Unit 1 high-temperature gas reactor, the Shippingport light water breeder reactor, and various Training, Research, and Isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA reactors). The ISF Facility is designed for the repackaging of specific quantities of this spent nuclear fuel, currently stored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at the INEEL, into new storage canisters, followed by its placement into an interim dry storage vault, in preparation for eventual shipment to a high-level waste geologic repository. The ISF Facility represents one element of a Settlement Agreement, dated October 17, 1995, among the DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho, regarding waste removal and environmental cleanup at the INEEL.

Following receipt of FWENC's application dated November 19, 2001, the NRC staff published a "Notice of Docketing, Notice of Consideration of Issuance, and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing for a Materials License for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility" in the **Federal Register** on June 27, 2002 (67 FR 43358). In conjunction with the issuance of this license, the staff published a final environmental impact statement (FEIS), "Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Butte County, Idaho," (NUREG-1773, Final Report, January 2004). A Notice of Availability of the FEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on February 27, 2004 (69 FR 9387). The staff has determined that no significant environmental impacts will be generated as a result of construction and operation of the proposed ISF Facility.

The NRC staff has completed its environmental safeguards, and safety reviews of the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility license application and safety analysis report, as amended. The NRC staff issued Materials License No. SNM-2512 and its Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility on November 30, 2004.

Further details with respect to this action are provided in the application dated November 19, 2001, as amended November 8, 2002, and March 28 and November 14, 2003; the staff's FEIS dated January 2004; Materials License SNM-2512 and the staff's SER, dated November 30, 2004; and other related documents, which are normally available in the records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The NRC maintains ADAMS, which provides text and image files of NRC's

public documents. However, as of October 25, 2004, the NRC initiated an additional security review of publicly available documents to ensure that potentially sensitive information is removed from the ADAMS database accessible through the NRC's Web site. Interested members of the public should check the NRC's web pages for updates on the availability of documents through the ADAMS system. When public availability is restored, these documents may be accessed through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. After resumption of public access to ADAMS, copies of the referenced documents will also be available for review at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, 20852. PDR reference staff can be contacted at 1-800-397-4209, (301) 415-4737 or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. The PDR reproduction contractor will copy documents for a fee.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of November, 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

James R. Hall,

Senior Project Manager, Licensing Section, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-483]

Union Electric Company; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Union Electric Company (the licensee) to withdraw its December 15, 2003, application for proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-30 for the Callaway Plant, Unit No. 1, located in Callaway County, Missouri.

The proposed amendment would have revised Technical Specifications (TSs) 3.3.9, "Boron Dilution Mitigation System (BDMS)," and 3.9.2, "Unborated Water Source Isolation Valves." The proposed changes would replace the phrase "unborated water" by the word "dilution" in several places and delete references to isolation valves BGV0178 and BGV0601. A Note would also be added to TS 3.9.2 about dilution source path valves may be unisolated.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on February 3, 2004 (69 FR 5211). However, by letter dated October 29, 2004, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's application for amendment dated December 15, 2003, and the licensee's letter dated October 29, 2004, which withdrew the application for a license amendment. 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 Systems (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room¹ 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 at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of December 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jack Donohew,

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

[FR Doc. 04-26905 Filed 12-7-04; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-01]

General Electric Company Notice of Issuance of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for License Renewal of the Morris Operation Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Environmental assessment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher M. Regan, Senior Project Manager, Spent Fuel Project Office,

¹ Public access to ADAMS has been temporarily suspended so that security reviews of publicly available documents may be performed and potentially sensitive information removed. Please check the NRC Web site for updates on the resumption of ADAMS access.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone: (301) 415-1179; fax number: (301) 415-1179; e-mail: cmr1@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering the renewal of the materials license under the requirements of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 72 (10 CFR part 72), to the General Electric Company (the applicant), authorizing the operation for an additional 20 years, beyond the initial license term, of the General Electric Morris Operation (GEMO) independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) located in Grundy County, Illinois. The Commission's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) has completed its review of the environmental report, submitted by the applicant on May 22, 2000, in support of its application for renewal of its materials license. The staff's "Environmental Assessment Related to the License Renewal of the General Electric Morris Operation Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation" has been issued in accordance with 10 CFR part 51.

I. Summary of Environmental Assessment (EA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed licensing action would renew the license to operate a wet storage ISFSI at the GEMO site. The purpose of the ISFSI is to provide for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel generated from the operation of nuclear power reactors using natural water for cooling and enriched Uranium-235 fuel. The GEMO ISFSI is a wet pool storage design and is the only wet "away from reactor" ISFSI of its kind in the U.S. The major components of the system for storage of spent nuclear fuel include the stainless steel lined concrete storage basins, the pool structure, the spent fuel storage grid structure and fuel storage baskets each containing nine boiling water reactor (BWR) spent fuel assemblies or twelve pressurized water (PWR) spent fuel assemblies, ancillary equipment necessary for the movement of spent nuclear fuel, e.g., cranes and basket grappling devices, and equipment necessary for the maintenance of the pool water quality and level. A license issued for an ISFSI under 10 CFR part 72 is issued for a fixed period not to exceed 20 years. The proposed GEMO ISFSI renewed license will expire in May 2022, 20 years from expiration of the current ISFSI license.

Need for the Proposed Action: The GEMO ISFSI is needed to provide

continued interim storage capacity until such a time that the spent nuclear fuel will be accepted for disposition at a Federal repository. A denial of the request to renew the ISFSI license would result in the cessation of normal operations and the beginning of decommissioning activities. By providing continued interim storage in the GEMO ISFSI there will be no immediate need to move the fuel to another interim storage facility.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The NRC staff has concluded that the continued operation of the GEMO ISFSI will not result in a significant impact to the environment. The prior NRC Environmental Impact Appraisal associated with the issuance of Materials License SNM-2500 in May 1982 continues to form the basis for assessing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed license renewal action. The environmental impacts associated with the proposed action concentrate on only those impacts projected to occur during the 20 year license renewal time period. Environmental impacts include the potential direct effects on the ambient environment and its resources. These potential impacts can be categorized as non-radiological and radiological impacts.

There will be no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts from routine operation of the GEMO ISFSI during the extended period of operation. The ISFSI is essentially a passive facility with no liquid and gaseous effluents released from the ISFSI that exceed Federal regulatory limits. The continued operation of the GEMO ISFSI will result in no change to the current impact on land use, water resources, air quality, generation of wastewater, geology, biota, cultural resources, and area demographics and socio-economics. The GEMO ISFSI is in its completed configuration and as such there will be no environmental impacts from construction activities. The staff does not expect operation of the GEMO ISFSI for an additional period of 20 years to impact any threatened or endangered species. The radiological dose rates from the spent fuel pool will be limited by the design of the basin, the depth of basin water, and the basin superstructure. The total occupational dose to workers at the GEMO site resulting from continued ISFSI operation will have a small impact on workers or the public, but all occupational doses must be maintained below the limits specified in 10 CFR part 20. The annual dose to the nearest resident from GEMO ISFSI activities

remains significantly below the annual dose limits specified in 10 CFR 72.104 and 10 CFR 20.1301 (25 mrem and 100 mrem, respectively). The cumulative dose to an individual offsite from all site activities will be 2.2×10^{-5} mrem/year, which is also much less than the limits specified in 10 CFR 72.104 and 10 CFR 20.1301. These doses are also a small fraction of the doses resulting from naturally-occurring terrestrial and cosmic radiation of about 100 mrem/yr in the vicinity of the GEMO ISFSI. Additionally, occupational doses received by facility workers will not exceed the limits specified in 10 CFR 20.1201. For hypothetical accidents, the calculated dose to an individual at the nearest site boundary is well below the 5 rem limit for accidents set forth in 10 CFR 72.106(b) and in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's protective action guidelines.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action: The applicant's Environmental Report and the staff's EA discuss the No Action alternative to renewal of the GEMO ISFSI license. The No-Action alternative includes shipment of the spent nuclear fuel off site to another NRC licensed interim storage facility and subsequent decommissioning of the GEMO ISFSI. Other alternatives, including shipping of spent nuclear fuel from GEMO to a permanent Federal repository, to a reprocessing facility, or to a privately owned spent fuel storage facility were determined to be non-viable alternatives, as no such facilities are currently available in the United States, and shipping the spent fuel overseas is impractical in light of the political, legal, and logistical uncertainties and the high cost and therefore were also not considered viable alternatives. The No-Action alternative considered the environmental consequences of shipping the GEMO spent nuclear fuel inventory to another NRC licensed ISFSI and the consequences of immediate decommissioning and decontamination (D&D) verses D&D at the end of the renewed license renewal term.

The environmental impacts from the No-Action alternative include an immediate short term increase in air releases from machinery necessary for the transport of the spent nuclear fuel offsite and the equipment necessary for dismantling and demolition of the GEMO buildings. Additionally, there will be a small impact on water resources resulting from an increase in water consumption from decontamination activities necessary for fuel shipment. The specific type of D&D activities will remain unchanged, however, the activities would be undertaken immediately rather than at

the end of the proposed 20-year extended period of operation. Onsite facilities are capable of processing of the sanitary wastewater generated by D&D activities and therefore D&D activities would result in no long-term small impacts. The No-Action alternative would result in no other non-radiological long-term small impacts. The No-Action alternative would require movement of the spent nuclear fuel inventory to another NRC licensed ISFSI. These activities are similar to, but in reverse of, receipt operations and do result in an increased level of occupational exposures and exposure to the public. Shipment of the spent nuclear fuel to another NRC licensed ISFSI before the Federal repository is ready to receive the fuel would result in two separate shipping activities, the first shipment moving the spent nuclear fuel from the GEMO ISFSI to another NRC licensed ISFSI, and the second from the second NRC licensed ISFSI to the Federal repository. Two shipments would result in more radiological consequences than a single shipment. Additionally, since the constituents of the spent nuclear fuel decay over time the radiological impacts of shipment would be larger if the spent nuclear fuel were moved immediately versus movement at the end of the proposed license renewal period in the year 2022. In the long-term, the immediate decommissioning of the GEMO ISFSI would have a larger negative impact on the local economy and infrastructure than if decommissioning were to take place at the end of the proposed extended period of operation. For the reasons cited above, the No-Action alternative considered is a less practical alternative.

As discussed in the EA, the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed license renewal of the GEMO ISFSI, and other alternatives were not pursued because of additional occupational exposures, and the impracticality of other offsite storage options.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: Officials from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Office of the Governor were contacted in preparing the staff's Environmental Assessment. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, provided comments by letter dated May 14, 2004. These comments have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

II. Finding of No Significant Impact

The staff has reviewed the environmental impacts for the proposed license renewal of the GEMO ISFSI

relative to the requirements set forth in 10 CFR part 51, and has prepared an Environmental Assessment. Based on the Environmental Assessment, the staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that issuance of a renewed license for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel at the GEMO ISFSI will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31 and 51.32, a finding of no significant impact is appropriate and an environmental impact statement need not be prepared for the issuance of a renewed materials license for the GEMO ISFSI.

Further details related to this proposed action are provided in the license application, dated May 5, 2000, as supplemented August 13, 2001, September 27, 2003, and August 9, 2004, and the staff's Environmental Assessment, dated November 30, 2004. However, as of October 25, 2004, the NRC initiated an additional security review of publicly available documents to ensure that potentially sensitive information is removed from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) database accessible through the NRC's Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Interested members of the public should check the NRC's Web pages for updates on the availability of documents through the ADAMS system. Copies of the referenced documents are available for review and/or copying at the Commission's Public Document Room, One White Flint North Building, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, pending resumption of public access to ADAMS. The NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff can be contacted at 1-800-397-4209, (301) 415-4737 or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of November 2004.

For the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Christopher M. Regan,

Senior Project Manager, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Notice of Meeting

The Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold its 156th

meeting on December 13-14, 2004, Room T-2B3, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The schedule for this meeting is as follows:

Monday, December 13, 2004

2:30 p.m.-2:40 p.m.: Opening Statement (Open)—The ACNW Chairman will open the meeting with brief opening remarks.

2:40 p.m.-3:45 p.m.: Preparation for Meeting with the NRC Commissioners (Open)—The Committee will discuss the proposed presentation topics for its meeting with the NRC Commissioners, which is scheduled to be held between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2005.

4 p.m.-5 p.m.: Time-of-Compliance for a Proposed High-Level Waste Repository (Open)—The Committee will discuss its previous recommendations regarding time-of-compliance for a proposed high-level waste repository.

5 p.m.-6 p.m.: ACNW 2005 Operating Plan (Open)—The ACNW Committee will continue its discussions and finalize the relevant sections of the 2005 Operating Plan.

Tuesday, December 14, 2004

8:30 a.m.-8:35 a.m.: Opening Statement (Open)—The ACNW Chairman will make opening remarks regarding the conduct of today's sessions.

8:35 a.m.-10 a.m.: Agreement State Program (Open)—The Committee will receive an update from the Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs (OSTP) on recent activities of his office.

10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.: Working Group Planning Session (Open)—The Members will discuss draft prospectuses for proposed 2005 working group meetings.

1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Sealed Sources (Open)—The Committee will hear from representatives of the NRC staff, DOE, State of Maryland Department of Radiation Protection and other stakeholders on recent activities related to the control and tracking of sealed sources.

4:30 p.m.-5 p.m.: Preparation of ACNW Report (Open)—The Committee will discuss the ACNW report on Sealed Sources (Tentative).

5 p.m.-5:15 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 ACNW meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on October 18, 2004 (69 FR 61416). In