statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and to Jay Silberg, Esquire, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street NW., Washington, DC 20037, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated August 6, 1996, as supplemented March 2, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Bartholomew C. Buckley,

Acting Director, Project Directorate I–2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–11121 Filed 4–24–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–387 AND 50–388]

Pennsylvania Power and Light Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF–14 and NPF–22 issued to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company (the licensee) for operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

(2.o.) The proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specifications (TSs) surveillance requirement for the verification of the average power range monitor (APRM) flow biased simulated thermal power-high time constant from 6 seconds plus or minus 1 second to less than 7 seconds. The lower limit of 5 seconds will be relocated to plant procedures since it is not a condition for operability of this reactor protection system function.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does the change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

The proposed changes remove from the SSES CTS [Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Current TS] items that are informational or implementing details that are adequately and more appropriately controlled by the licensee. Additionally, the proposed changes remove from the SSES CTS items that are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations or other regulatory documents and, therefore, do not need to be repeated in the SSES ITS. These requirements being moved to another controlled document or removed from Technical Specifications are not deleted or changed. Therefore, these changes will not result in any changes to the requirements specified in the SSES CTS, but will reduce the level of regulatory control on the identified requirements. The level of regulatory control has no impact on the probability or the consequences of an accident previously evaluated, therefore, these changes have no impact on the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

The proposed changes will not involve any physical changes to plant systems, structures, or components (SSC), or the manner in which these SSC are operated, maintained, modified, tested, or inspected. The proposed changes will not impose or eliminate any requirements. Therefore, these changes do not create the possibility of

a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Does this change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

The margin of safety as defined in the bases of any Technical Specification is not reduced. The requirements being moved to another controlled document or removed from Technical Specifications remain the same as stated in the SSES CTS. Therefore, no reduction in a margin of safety will be permitted.

Removal of these items from SSES CTS eliminates the requirement for NRC review and approval of revisions in accordance with 10 CFR 50.92. Elimination of this administrative process does not have a margin of safety that can be evaluated. However, the proposed changes are consistent with the BWR [Boiling Water Reactor] Standard Technical Specification, NUREG–1433, Rev 1, which was approved by the NRC. Revising the Technical Specifications to reflect the approved level of detail ensures no significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By May 27, 1998, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's ''Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings'' in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) The nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment

and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and to Jay Silberg, Esquire, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street NW., Washington, DC 20037, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated August 1, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Bartholomew C. Buckley,

Acting Director, Project Directorate I–2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98–11119 Filed 4–24–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70–0734]

Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing for the Amendment of Materials License SNM–696, General Atomics, San Diego, CA

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact and notice of opportunity for hearing for the amendment of materials license SNM–696, General Atomics, San Diego, CA.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering amendment of Special Nuclear Material License SNM–696, issued to General Atomics (the licensee) located in San Diego, California to incorporate a Site Decommissioning Plan. The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action, because the amendment will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment for reasons described in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Summary of the Environmental Assessment

Background

General Atomics (GA) has been authorized by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and its predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, to use special nuclear material in nuclear fuel fabrication and research and development for more than 30 years. Special nuclear material used at the San Diego site included the radioactive materials plutonium and uranium enriched in the isotopes uranium-233 and uranium-235. As operations changed at the site, GA initiated decommissioning activities affecting portions of the site beginning in the mid 1980's. By the early 1990's, fuel fabrication operations involving special nuclear material at the facility had ceased, and in September of 1996, GA's Special Nuclear Material License, SNM–696, was amended to authorize only activities incident to decommissioning. GA also currently has State of California Radioactive Materials License No. 0145–37 to possess and use source and byproduct materials and NRC Reactor Licenses, R–38 and R–67, for two Training Reactor-Isotope-General Atomics research reactors. By application dated October 11, 1996, and supplements dated December 5, 1996; April 18, 1997; and January 15, 1998; GA requested an amendment to its fuel fabrication License SNM–696 to incorporate an overall Site Decommissioning Plan (DP).

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is the amendment of GA's license to incorporate the DP, which describes the remaining decommissioning activities planned at the GA facility under License SNM–696 and release of the site for unrestricted use. The DP describes the areas and facilities to be decommissioned, the decontamination techniques, and the proposed effluent control and waste management practices that will be used during decommissioning.

GA intends to decommission to radiation levels required for unrestricted use and to terminate License SNM–696 for these areas. Soil will be remediated to levels specified in Option 1 of the Branch Technical Position (BTP), ''Disposal or Onsite Storage of Thorium or Uranium Wastes from Past Operations,'' (46 FR 52061; October 23, 1981). Facilities and equipment will be decontaminated to levels specified in ''Guidelines for Decontamination of Facilities and Equipment Prior to Release for Unrestricted Use or Termination of Licenses for Byproduct, Source, or Special Nuclear Material,'' (USNRC, Policy and Guidance Directive FC 83–23, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, November 4, 1983).

The Need for the Proposed Action

GA is not required to submit an overall site DP because all procedures and activities necessary to carry out decommissioning of the site have been previously approved by the NRC, consistent with the provisions of 10 CFR 70.38(g)(1). However, the incorporation of overall site DP into GA's license reduces the administrative effort for both the licensee and the NRC by reducing the number of documents which must be generated and reviewed. It also facilitates a more consistent and organized decommissioning approach across the facility.

Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Action

The NRC staff performed a radiological dose assessment to estimate the impact from airborne radioactive releases under the proposed action. Only radioactive effluents were considered because non-radioactive releases are expected to be insignificant. In addition, because liquid effluents were released only through the sanitary