

waste. No action now would delay remediation until some time in the future, when costs could be much higher than they are today. It is even possible that no disposal option will be available in the future if the current low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities are closed and no new ones are opened. Therefore, the no-action alternative is not acceptable.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action

The 10 CFR Part 20 liquid effluent release limits are based on a total effective dose equivalent of 50 mrem if the radionuclide were ingested continuously over the course of a year. The licensee has committed to maintain annual cumulative averaging less than 20 percent of the effluent limits stipulated in Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 20. The Cushing license SNM-1999 will be conditioned to reflect this commitment. The licensee's analysis indicates that the actual releases will likely be less than one percent of the effluent limits. If the licensee did release liquid effluents at one percent of the 10 CFR Part 20 release limits and if a member of the public were able to directly consume this contaminated liquid effluent, that member of the public would receive a total effective dose of less than 0.5 mrem/year.

Further, if the licensee released liquid effluents at 20 percent of the 10 CFR Part 20 release limits and if a member of the public were able to directly consume this contaminated liquid effluent, that member of the public would receive a total effective dose of less than 10 mrem/year. Therefore, effluent releases from the RMSA will be limited to an annual average of not more than 20 percent of the 10 CFR Part 20 limit and, in accordance with ALARA, any discharge above 20 percent of the limit will be investigated and corrective measures will be taken and documented. This condition will ensure that the maximum potential dose to a member of the public is less than 10 mrem/year. Therefore, the impact on the human environment due to the release of potentially radioactive contaminated liquid effluent from either the RMSA or the retention pond is insignificant.

Further, the low-level waste disposal facility, Envirocare, eligible to receive this waste, is regulated under State of Utah rules for land disposal of radioactive wastes, which provide for long-term institutional control and minimize the potential for human intrusion and other environmental impacts. Therefore, NRC staff believes that disposing of the Acid Sludge Pit 4 radiologically contaminated wastes at

the Envirocare facility will not cause any significant impacts on the human environment and is acceptable. The conditions and restrictions placed on the Envirocare facility, combined with the facility design provisions and its location, provide an acceptable level of protection of human health and safety and the environment.

Conclusions

Based on NRC staff's evaluation of the licensee's Acid Sludge Pit 4 remediation plan and placement of radioactive contaminated material into the RMSA, NRC staff has determined that the proposed plan and use of the RMSA complies with NRC's public and occupational dose and effluent limits, and that authorizing the proposed activities by license amendment would not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. NRC staff concludes that a finding of no significant impact is justified and appropriate, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. In accordance with the requirements of Subpart L of 10 CFR Part 2, an Opportunity for a Hearing was offered.¹

Finding of No Significant Impact

Pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51, NRC has prepared an environmental assessment related to the issuance of a license amendment to Materials License SNM-1999, authorizing remediation of Acid Sludge Pit 4 and placement of radioactive contaminated material into the RMSA. On the basis of this environmental assessment, NRC has concluded that this licensing action would not have any significant effect on the quality of the human environment and does not warrant the preparation of an environmental impact statement. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

Further Information

For further details with respect to this action, the Environmental Assessment and other documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and copying at NRC's Public Document Room at the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of July 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Lawrence G. Bell,

Acting Chief, Low-Level Waste and Decommissioning Projects Branch, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Wednesday, July 29, 1998.

PLACE: NRC Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of July 27

Wednesday, July 29

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on Operating Reactors and Fuel Facilities (Public meeting)

4:00 p.m.

Affirmation Session (Public meeting)
*(Please note: This item will be affirmed immediately following the conclusion of the preceding meeting.)

a: Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C.; Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Memorandum and Order, LBP-98-7 (April 22, 1998) (Tentative)

*The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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Annette L. Vietti-Cook,

Acting Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

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¹60 Federal Register 46318 (September 6, 1995).