The historical quantities of radionuclides at the NRSF have been far below the limiting quantities.

ALARON's operations with licensed material involve use of fluoroboric acid (HBF_4). In the event of an accident, the primary off-site chemical hazard would be from the gaseous boron trifluoride (BF_3) and hydrogen fluoride (HF) that could result from decomposition of the HBF_4. The evaluation of the potential impacts of this nonradiological material was based on a release to the atmosphere using the same accidental fire scenario as for the radiological materials. The results were compared to the EPA's guidance for chemical hazards under its ''Risk Management Plan Rule.'' Because the total inventory of fluoroboric acid at NRSF is less than EPA's recommended threshold amounts, there is no potential for adverse off-site human health impacts in the event of accidents involving this acid at NRSF.

Conclusion

The NRC staff concludes that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed license renewal for continued operation of ALARON Corporation's Wampum, Pennsylvania, Northeast Regional Service Facility are expected to be insignificant.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has prepared an EA related to the renewal of Material Licenses 37–20826–01 and 37–20826–02. On the basis of the assessment, the Commission has concluded that environmental impacts that would be created by the proposed action would not be significant and do not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

The EA is being made available as NUREG/CR–5549. Copies of NUREG/CR–5549 may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, PO Box 37082, Washington, DC 20402–9328. Copies are also available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. A copy is also available for inspection and copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555–0001.

Opportunity for a Hearing

Any person whose interest may be affected by the issuance of this renewal may file a request for a hearing. Any request for hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**; be served on the NRC staff (Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852), and on the licensee (ALARON Corporation, RD#2, Box 2140A, Wampum, PA 16157); and must comply with the requirements for requesting a hearing set forth in the Commission's regulations, 10 CFR part 2, subpart L, ''Information Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials Licensing Proceedings.''

These requirements, which the request must address in detail, are:

1. The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding (including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing);
3. The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and
4. The circumstances establishing that the request for hearing is timely—that is, filed within 30 days of the date of this notice.

In addressing how the requestor's interest may be affected by the proceeding, the request should describe the nature of the requestor's right under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to be made a party to the proceeding; the nature and extent of the requestor's property, financial, or other (i.e., health, safety) interest in the proceeding; and the possible effect of any order that may be entered in the proceeding upon the requestor's interest.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of November, 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Larry W. Camper,

Chief, Material Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 98–32114 Filed 12–1–98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–305]

Wisconsin Public Service Corp., Wisconsin Power and Light Co., Madison Gas and Electric Co., Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Operating License DPR–43, issued to Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Wisconsin Power and Light Company, and Madison Gas and Electric Company (the licensee), for the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant located in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise the reactor core power distribution peaking factor limits and reactor coolant system operating parameters related to the minimum departure from nucleate boiling ratio safety limit. These proposed changes are the result of analyses performed in support of use of new type fuel assemblies. The new fuel assemblies would be operated within these new thermal-hydraulic and power distribution limits with potential fuel assembly burnups to 59 GWD/MTU and maximum rod average burnup limited to 60 GWD/MTU. Another change included in the proposed amendment is the removal, from the current licensing basis, of the fuel pool turbine missile hazards analysis.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated April 15, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated July 27 and August 13, 1998, by two different letters dated September 28, 1998, and by a letter dated November 24, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed in order for the licensee to have the flexibility to use fuel with increased burnup and to revise the plant safety analyses. The changes in operating parameters and limits will allow longer operating cycles and result in fewer fuel assemblies being needed.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The staff has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and made the following findings: (1) The mechanical design of the fuel has been evaluated and found acceptable for use within the analyzed limits, (2) although the extended burnup to 60 GWD/MTU may slightly change the mix of radionuclides that might be released in the event of an accident, analyses of radiological consequences of accidents confirm that there is no significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents, (3) no significant changes would be made in the amounts or types of any radiological effluents that may be released offsite, (4) there is no significant increase in the allowable

individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, and (5) the probability of high trajectory turbine missiles impacting the spent fuel pool target area has been found to be so insignificant that the event need not be further considered as a design basis event.

On February 29, 1988 (53 FR 6041), the staff published ''Extended Burnup Fuel Use in Commercial LWR's; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact.'' This generic environmental assessment of extended fuel burnup in light water reactors found that ''no significant adverse effects will be generated by increasing the present batch-average burnup level of 33 GWD/MTU to 50 GWD/MTU or above as long as the maximum rod average burnup level of any fuel rod is no greater than 60 GWD/MTU.'' In addition, the environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment fuel and extended irradiation were published and discussed in the staff assessment entitled, ''NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation,'' dated July 7, 1988. That assessement was published in connection with an Environmental Assessment related to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, which was published in the **Federal Register** (53 FR 30355) on August 11, 1988, as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322). In these assessments, collectively, the staff concluded that the environmental impacts summarized in Table S–3 of 10 CFR 51.51 and in Table S–4 of 10 CFR 51.52 for a burnup level of 33 GWD/MTU are conservative and bound the corresponding impacts for burnup levels up to 60 GWD/MTU. These findings are applicable to the proposed action at Kewaunee which will limit burnup to 60 GWD/MTU.

With regard to potential non-environmental impacts, the proposed action involves components located entirely within the restricted area as defined by 10 CFR part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. The proposed action does not involve any of the historic sites located in the vicinity of Kewaunee as identified in Section II.C of the Kewaunee Final Environmental Statement. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any other alternative would have greater environmental impacts and need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce the environmental impact of plant operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement which was issued December 20, 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 19, 1998, the staff consulted with Sarah Jenkins, an official of the Public Service Commission of the State of Wisconsin, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the staff has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's application dated April 15, 1998, as supplemented by letters dated July 27, August 13, September 28, and November 24, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C., and at the local public document room located at the University of Wisconsin, Cofrin Library, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311–7001.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of November 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William O. Long, Sr.

Project Manager, Project Directorate III–1, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Biweekly Notice; Applications and Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Involving No Significant Hazards Considerations

I. Background

Pursuant to Public Law 97–415, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC staff) is publishing this regular biweekly notice. Public Law 97–415 revised section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), to require the Commission to publish notice of any amendments issued, or proposed to be issued, under a new provision of section 189 of the Act. This provision grants the Commission the authority to issue and make immediately effective any amendment to an operating license upon a determination by the Commission that such amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, notwithstanding the pendency before the Commission of a request for a hearing from any person.

This biweekly notice includes all notices of amendments issued, or proposed to be issued from November 6, 1998, through November 19, 1998. The last biweekly notice was published on November 18, 1998 (63 FR 64106).

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

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the following amendment requests involve 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. The basis for this proposed determination for each amendment request is shown below.

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.