The Need for the Proposed Action

ASME Code Case N–588 and Code Case N–640 are needed to revise the method used to determine the RCS P–T limits, since continued use of the present curves unnecessarily restricts the P–T operating window. Since the RCS P–T operating window is defined by the P–T operating and test limit curves developed in accordance with the ASME Section XI, Appendix G procedure, continued operation of Quad Cities with these P–T curves without the relief provided by ASME Code Case N–640 would unnecessarily require the RPV to maintain a temperature exceeding 212 degrees Fahrenheit in a limited operating window during the pressure test. Consequently, steam vapor hazards would continue to be one of the safety concerns for personnel conducting inspections in primary containment. Implementation of the proposed P–T curves, as allowed by ASME Code Case N–640, does not significantly reduce the margin of safety and would eliminate steam vapor hazards by allowing inspections in primary containment to be conducted at lower coolant temperature.

In the associated exemption, the staff has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the underlying purpose of the regulation will continue to be served by the implementation of these Code Cases.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the exemption described above would provide an adequate margin of safety against brittle failure of the Quad Cities reactor vessels.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological environmental impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological 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

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the ''no-action'' alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, dated September 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 28, 2000, the staff consulted with the Illinois State official, Frank Niziolek of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, 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 Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission 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 letter dated November 12, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, *http:www.nrc.gov* (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Anthony J. Mendiola,

Chief, Section 2, Project Directorate III, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–2522 Filed 2–3–00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–331]

IES Utilities Inc.; Duane Arnold Energy Center; Notice of Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Operating Authority Under Facility Operating License and Conforming Amendment, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80 approving the transfer of operating authority under Facility Operating License No. DPR–49 for the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), currently held by IES Utilities Inc. The transfer would be to a new operating company called Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC). The Commission is also considering amending the license for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer.

By application dated November 24, 1999, seeking approval of the transfer, the Commission was informed that IES Utilities Inc., has entered into a Nuclear Power Plant Operating Services Agreement with NMC. Under this Agreement, NMC would assume exclusive responsibility for the operation and maintenance of DAEC. Ownership of DAEC will not be affected by the proposed transfer of operating authority; IES Utilities Inc., the Central Iowa Power Cooperative, and the Corn Belt Power Cooperative will retain their respective current ownership interests, according to the application. Likewise, the three owners' entitlement to capacity and energy from DAEC will not be affected by the proposed transfer of operating authority. No physical changes to the facility or operational changes are being proposed in the application.

The proposed amendment would reflect the transfer of authority under the license to operate DAEC from IES Utilities Inc., to NMC.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. The Commission will approve an application for the transfer of a license, if the Commission determines that the proposed transferee is qualified to hold the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

Before issuance of the proposed conforming 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.

As provided in 10 CFR 2.1315, unless otherwise determined by the Commission with regard to a specific application, the Commission has determined that any amendment to the license of a utilization facility which does no more than conform the license to reflect the transfer action involves no significant hazards consideration. No contrary determination has been made with respect to this specific license amendment application. In light of the generic determination reflected in 10 CFR 2.1315, no public comments with respect to significant hazards considerations are being solicited, notwithstanding the general comment procedures contained in 10 CFR 50.91.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene, and written comments with regard to the license transfer application, are discussed below.

By February 24, 2000, any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing, and, if not the applicants, may petition for leave to intervene in a hearing proceeding on the Commission's action. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be filed in accordance with the Commission's rules of practice set forth in Subpart M, ''Public Notification, Availability of Documents and Records, Hearing Requests and Procedures for Hearings on License Transfer Applications,'' of 10 CFR Part 2. In particular, such requests and petitions must comply with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 2.1306, and should address the considerations contained in 10 CFR 2.1308(a). Untimely requests and petitions may be denied, as provided in 10 CFR 2.1308(b), unless good cause for failure to file on time is established. In addition, an untimely request or petition should address the factors that the Commission will also consider, in reviewing untimely requests or petitions, set forth in 10 CFR 2.1308(b)(1)–(2).

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be served upon Alvin H. Gutterman, counsel for IES Utilities Inc., at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, 1800 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036–5869 (tel: 202–467–7468; fax: 202–467–7176; e-mail: ahgutterman@mlb.com); and the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555 (e-mail address for filings regarding license transfer cases only: OGCLT@NRC.gov); and the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.1313.

The Commission will issue a notice or order granting or denying a hearing request or intervention petition, designating the issues for any hearing that will be held and designating the Presiding Officer. A notice granting a hearing will be published in the **Federal Register** and served on the parties to the hearing.

As an alternative to requests for hearing and petitions to intervene, by March 6, 2000, persons may submit written comments regarding the license transfer application, as provided for in 10 CFR 2.1305. The Commission will consider and, if appropriate, respond to these comments, but such comments will not otherwise constitute part of the decisional record. Comments should be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, and should cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated November 24, 1999, available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (http://www.nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Claudia M. Craig,

Chief, Section 1, Project Directorate III, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00–2520 Filed 2–3–00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 40–8084

Rio Algom Mining Corporation; Request to Revise a Site-Reclamation Milestone

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of a request from Rio Algom Mining Corporation to revise a site-reclamation milestone in License No. SUA–1119 for the Lisbon, Utah, facility and notice of opportunity for a hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received, by letter dated October 23, 1998 and subsequent telephone conversation, a request from Rio Algom Mining Corporation (Rio Algom) to amend License Condition (LC) 55 A.(3) of Source Material License SUA–1119 for the Lisbon, Utah, facility. The license amendment request proposes to modify LC 55 A.(3) to change the completion date for placement of the final radon barrier on the pile to December 31, 2000 for the area not covered by the evaporation pond. Due to continuing use of the evaporation pond, the final radon barrier at the pond location will be completed by 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Caverly, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Washington, DC 20555. Telephone (301) 415–6699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The portion of LC 55 A.(3) with the proposed change would read as follows:

A. To ensure timely compliance with target completion dates established in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency (56 FR 55432, October 25, 1991), the licensee shall complete reclamation to control radon emissions as expeditiously as practicable, considering technological feasibility, in accordance with the following schedule:

(3) Placement of final radon barrier designed and constructed to limit radon emissions to an average flux of no more than 20 pCi/m^2 sec above background—December 31, 2000 for areas not covered by the evaporation ponds and by December 31, 2014 for the area under the evaporation ponds.

Rio Algom's request to amend LC 55 A.(3) of Source Material License SUA–1119, which describes the proposed changes to the license condition and the reason for the request, is being made available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20555.

The NRC hereby provides notice of an opportunity for a hearing on the license amendment under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart L, ''Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials and Operator Licensing Proceedings.'' Pursuant to § 2.1205(a), any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing. In accordance with § 2.1205(c), a request for hearing must be filed within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal**