

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2012-0271]

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Weaver, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-251-7654; email: Thomas.Weaver@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is preparing to initiate a paleoliquefaction research project to characterize historic earthquakes in the Central and Eastern United States. Geologic reconnaissance will be performed along select river banks in the states of Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia as part of this project. Paleoliquefaction features are geologic features such as sand blows and sand dikes that formed during historic and pre-historic earthquakes as a result of soil liquefaction, where soil liquefaction is the process of water pressure increasing in the soil due to cyclic shaking with an associated significant decrease in soil strength. The results from this research will be used to update models implemented in probabilistic seismic hazard analyses, which are used in evaluating sites for new nuclear power reactors to characterize ground motions in accordance with section 100.23(d)(1) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR).

The NRC has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may arise as a result of this research project in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR part 51, NRC's regulation implementing Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended. Based on the EA, and in accordance with 10 CFR 51.31(a), the NRC has concluded that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate. Field work for this project will commence following publication of this document.

II. EA Summary

The NRC has prepared the EA to evaluate the potential environmental

impacts of the geologic reconnaissance to be performed along select rivers for this project. In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the NRC staff requested informal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. No concerns were identified for Federally listed species or designated critical habitat. This project is temporary, minimally invasive, and will occur outside the critical nesting times for migratory birds. Further, researchers will avoid mussel beds and active nests, and will minimize disturbance to vegetation.

Similarly, the NRC determined that there will be no adverse effects to any historic or cultural resources that may be located in the paleoliquefaction study's area of potential effects (APE) within the states of Arkansas and Missouri. The State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) of Arkansas and Missouri have concurred with this finding. Consultation will be initiated with the Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia SHPOs and the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 process will be completed prior to commencing any ground disturbing activities in those states.

Finally, the NRC has determined that there will be no significant impacts to any other resource areas (*e.g.*, surface water, groundwater, air quality) as a result of the paleoliquefaction research study.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the EA, NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts from the proposed paleoliquefaction research study and has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement.

IV. Further Information

Documents related to this action, including supporting documentation, are available electronically at the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. From this site, you can access the NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The ADAMS accession numbers for the documents related to this notice are: ML12306A311. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737 or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov.

These documents may also be viewed electronically on the public computers located at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), O 1 F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852. The PDR reproduction contractor will copy documents for a fee.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 2nd day of November, 2012.

Rosemary T. Hogan,

Chief, Structural, Geotechnical, and Seismic Engineering Branch, Division of Engineering, Office of Research.

[FR Doc. 2012-27185 Filed 11-6-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2012-0002]

Notice of Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10, 2012.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

Week of November 5, 2012

Monday, November 5, 2012

1:30 p.m. NRC All Employees Meeting (Public Meeting), Marriott Bethesda North Hotel, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, MD 20852.

Thursday, November 8, 2012

9:30 a.m. Discussion of Management Issues (Closed—Ex. 2).

Week of November 12, 2012—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of November 12, 2012.

Week of November 19, 2012—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of November 19, 2012.

Week of November 26, 2012—Tentative

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

9:00 a.m. Briefing on Operator Licensing Program (Public Meeting) (Contact: Jack McHale, 301-415-3254).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov.

Thursday, November 29, 2012

2:30 p.m. Briefing on Security issues (Closed Ex-1).

Week of December 3, 2012—Tentative

Thursday, December 6, 2012.

9:30 a.m. Meeting with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, (ACRS) (Public Meeting),

(Contact: Ed Hackett, 301-415-7360).

This meeting will be webcast live at the Web address—www.nrc.gov.

Week of December 10, 2012—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 10, 2012.

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*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: Rochelle Baval, 301-415-1651.

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Additional Information

The Affirmation session, *Southern California Edison Co.* (San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station), Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362-CAL, Petition to Intervene, Request for Hearing, and Stay Application (June 18, 2012), schedule on October 30, 2012, was postponed. The Briefing on Fort Calhoun scheduled on October 30, 2012 was postponed.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/schedule.html>.

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The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these public meetings, or need this meeting notice or the transcript or other information from the public meetings in another format (e.g. braille, large print), please notify Bill Dosch, Chief, Work Life and Benefits Branch, at 301-415-6200, TDD: 301-415-2100, or by email at william.dosch@nrc.gov. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

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This notice is distributed electronically to subscribers. If you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to the distribution, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20555 (301-415-1969), or send an email to darlene.wright@nrc.gov.

Dated: November 1, 2012.

Rochelle C. Baval,
Policy Coordinator, Office of the Secretary.
[FR Doc. 2012-27181 Filed 11-2-12; 4:15 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-325 and 50-324; NRC-2012-0269]

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Receipt of request for action.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is giving notice that by petition dated July 10, 2012, Mr. David Lochbaum (the petitioner) and two copetitioners on behalf of the North Carolina Waste Awareness & Reduction Network, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and the Union of Concerned Scientists have requested that the NRC take action with regard to Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Brunswick). The petition is included in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2012-0269 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may access information related to this document, which the NRC possesses and are publicly available, using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web site:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2012-0269. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301-492-3668; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may access publicly available documents online in the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "ADAMS Public Documents" and then select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this notice (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

- **NRC's PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Farideh Saba, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-1447; email: Farideh.Saba@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 10, 2012, the petitioners requested that the NRC take action with regard to Brunswick. The petitioners request that the NRC take action in the form of an order either modifying the Brunswick operating licenses' technical specifications (as detailed in the petition) or requiring the licensee to submit amendment requests for these licenses.

As the basis for this request, the petitioners stated that "the current technical specifications for the Brunswick Units 1 and 2, reactors are based on the assumption that the sole scenario involving damage to irradiated fuel outside of the reactor vessel is that resulting from a fuel handling accident involving recently irradiated fuel (i.e., fuel that was within a critical reactor core within the past 24 hours)." However, "loss of water inventory from the spent fuel pool or sustained loss of its cooling capability can also result in damage to irradiated fuel. And the potential extent of that damage and the amount of radioactivity released from damaged fuel can be considerably larger than that resulting from a fuel handling accident." The petitioners stated that "because the probability of spent fuel pool water inventory or cooling loss is not so low as to be neglected, the technical specification provisions that currently manage the risk from a fuel handling accident must be extended to also cover other credible spent fuel pool events."

The NRC is handling this petition pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. The petition has been referred to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). As provided by 10 CFR 2.206, appropriate action will be taken on this petition within a reasonable time. The petitioners had a recorded conference call with the NRR petition review board on August 15, 2012, to discuss and supplement the petition. A copy of the petition is available for inspection under ADAMS Accession No. ML12193A123. The official transcript of the August 15, 2012, conference call is accessible via ADAMS Accession No. ML12234A730.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of October, 2012.