

3345(a)(1) of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act. References to the General Counsel hereinafter may refer to either the General Counsel or Deputy General Counsel collectively.

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Dated, Washington, DC, December 3, 2001.  
By direction of the Board.

**John J. Toner,**

*Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board.*

[FR Doc. 01-30305 Filed 12-5-01; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Notice of Permits Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation of 1978, Public Law 95-541.

**SUMMARY:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Nadene G. Kennedy, Permit Office, Office of Polar Programs, Rm. 755, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 29, 2001, the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of permit applications received. A permit was issued on November 26, 2001 to: Rennie S. Holt, Permit No. 2002-007.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**  
*Permit Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-30220 Filed 12-5-01; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-352 and 50-353]

### Exelon Generation Company, LLC, Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2. c, for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-39 and NPF-85, issued to Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon, the licensee), for operation of the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2,

located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

### Environmental Assessment

#### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2. c, regarding conduct of a full-participation exercise of the offsite emergency plan every 2 years. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would reschedule the exercise originally scheduled for November 1, 2001, and complete the exercise requirements by March 14, 2002.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for an exemption dated October 16, 2001.

#### The Need for the Proposed Action

Currently under 10 CFR part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2. c, each licensee at each site is required to conduct a full-participation exercise of its offsite emergency plan every 2 years. Federal agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, observe these exercises and evaluate the performance of the licensee, state, and local authorities having a role under the emergency plan.

The licensee had initially planned to conduct an exercise of its offsite emergency plan on November 1, 2001, which was within the required 2-year interval. However, due to the ongoing national security threat in the United States, and the response, recovery, and other offsite agency activities associated with the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the licensee has decided to postpone the exercise. The licensee does not plan to conduct the full-participation exercise until after the 2-year interval has expired.

#### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action involves an administrative activity unrelated to plant operations.

The proposed action will not significantly 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 impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological 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

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 different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, dated April 1984.

#### Agencies and Persons Consulted

On November 13, 2001, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Dennis Dyckman of the Pennsylvania Department of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments. In addition, the licensee notified the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, who indicated support for rescheduling the exercise.

#### Finding of No Significant Impact

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

Further details with respect to the proposed action can be found in the licensee's letter dated October 16, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. 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). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of November 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Christopher Gratton,**

*Sr. Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate 1, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-62]

### University of Virginia, University of Virginia Research Reactor; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of a license amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-66, issued to the University of Virginia (UVA or the licensee), that would allow decommissioning of the UVA Research Reactor located in the north portion of the UVA grounds near Charlottesville, Virginia.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### *Identification of the Proposed Action*

By application dated February 9, 2000, as supplemented on April 26, June 6, and December 19, 2000, and May 4 and 11, 2001, the licensee submitted a decommissioning plan in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(b), in order to dismantle the 2000-kilowatt (thermal) UVA Research Reactor, to dispose of its component parts and radioactive material, and to decontaminate the facility in accordance with the proposed dismantling plan to meet the Commission's unrestricted release criteria. After the Commission verifies that the release criteria have been met, Facility Operating License No. R-66 would be terminated. The licensee submitted an Environmental Report on February 9, 2000, dated February 2000, that was supplemented on December 19, 2000, that addresses the estimated environmental impacts resulting from decommissioning the UVA Research Reactor.

UVA ceased operating the reactor in July 1998. All the reactor fuel has been removed from the facility.

A "Notice and Solicitation of Comments Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1405 and 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5) Concerning Proposed Action to Decommission the University of Virginia, University of Virginia Reactor" was published in the **Federal Register** on April 4, 2000 (65 FR 17684), and in the Charlottesville, Virginia daily newspaper, *The Daily Progress*, on April 23, 2000. One comment was received from the Director, Radiological Health, Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health, Radiological Health Program that "the proposed decommissioning plan appears to adequately ensure the return of the facility to unrestricted use without adversely affecting the public health and safety."

##### *Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action is necessary because of UVA's decision to cease operations permanently. As specified in 10 CFR 50.82, any licensee may apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for authority to surrender a license voluntarily and to decommission the affected facility. Further, 10 CFR 51.53(d) stipulates that each applicant for a license amendment to authorize decommissioning of a production or utilization facility shall submit with its application an environmental report that reflects any new information or significant environmental change associated with the proposed decommissioning activities. UVA is planning to use the area that would be released for other academic purposes.

##### *Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action*

All decontamination will be performed by trained personnel in accordance with previously reviewed procedures, and will be overseen by experienced health physics staff. Solid and liquid waste will be removed from the facility and managed in accordance with NRC requirements. The operations are calculated to result in a total occupational radiation exposure of about 4 person-rem. Radiation exposure to the general public during decommissioning is expected to be negligible. This will be accomplished by keeping the public at a safe distance and by controlling effluent releases during decommissioning.

Occupational and public exposure may result from offsite disposal of the low-level residual radioactive material from the UVA Research Reactor. The handling, storage, and shipment of this radioactive material are to meet the

requirements of 10 CFR 20.2006, "Transfer for Disposal and Manifest," and 49 CFR parts 100-177, "Transportation of Hazardous Materials." It is anticipated that about 220 ft<sup>3</sup> (7 m<sup>3</sup>) of irradiated hardware will be shipped during two truck shipments in Type B shipping casks to a waste processor. About 2700 ft<sup>3</sup> (76 m<sup>3</sup>) of other waste in strong tight containers will be shipped during four truck shipments to a waste processor. Approximately 9700 ft<sup>3</sup> (275 m<sup>3</sup>) of waste will be shipped in strong tight containers to the Envirocare of Utah facility in nine truck shipments. Included in these shipments will be mixed waste consisting primarily of activated and/or contaminated lead (43 ft<sup>3</sup> or 1.2 m<sup>3</sup>) and cadmium (1 ft<sup>3</sup> or 0.03 m<sup>3</sup>). Radiation exposure to the general public during waste shipments is expected to be negligible.

The NRC Final Rule on License Termination, 10 CFR 20.1402, provides radiological criteria for release of a site for unrestricted use. Release criteria for unrestricted use is a maximum Total Effective Dose Equivalent (TEDE) of 25 mrem per year from residual radioactivity above background. Application of the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) principle is also a requirement. The results of the final survey will be used to demonstrate that the predicted dose to a member of the public from any residual activity does not exceed the 25 mrem per year dose limit.

Liquid waste that is generated during the decommissioning activities will be released to the environment in accordance with the regulations in 10 CFR part 20, subpart K, "Waste Disposal," or will be solidified and disposed of as solid waste in accordance with state and Federal guidelines. Containment measures will be taken as necessary to minimize the spread of contamination. Engineered features such as enclosures and temporary barriers with high-efficiency particulate air filters will be used to control the spread of airborne radioactive material. Airborne releases of radioactive materials are not expected.

The licensee analyzed accidents applicable to decommissioning activities. The accident with the greatest potential impact on members of the public is the dropping of a waste shipping liner containing radioactive material. The maximum TEDE to a member of the public at the site boundary for this accident is about 43 mrem which is within the dose limits for members of the public given in 10 CFR part 20, subpart D, "Radiation Dose