unforeseen circumstances), however, could necessitate modification to the mission objectives and timing. Such modifications could result in the need to launch one mission in 2003 and a second mission at a later date, or not at all. Depending upon the significance of any new information and whether any changes in the project are substantial, NASA will consider preparing additional environmental documentation in accordance with CEQ and NASA procedures.

For the MER–2003 missions, the potentially affected environment for normal launches includes the area at and in the vicinity of the launch site, CCAFS in Florida. The environmental impacts of normal launches of the two missions for the proposed action would be associated principally with the exhaust emissions from each of the Delta II launch vehicles. These effects would include: (1) Short-term impacts on air quality within the exhaust cloud and near the launch pads and (2) the potential for acidic deposition on the vegetation and surface water bodies at and near the launch complex, particularly if rain occurs shortly after launch.

Potential launch accidents could result in the release of some of the radioactive material on board the rover. Each rover would employ two instruments that use small quantities of cobalt-57 (not exceeding 350 millicuries) and curium-244 (not exceeding 50 millicuries) as instrument sources. Each rover would have up to 11 RHUs that use plutonium dioxide to provide heat to the electronics and batteries on board the rover. The radioisotope inventory of 11 RHUs would total approximately 365 curies of plutonium.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with NASA, has performed a risk assessment of potential accidents for the MER–2003 project. This assessment used a methodology refined through applications to the Galileo, Mars Pathfinder, and Cassini missions and incorporates results of safety tests on the RHUs and an evaluation of the January 17, 1997, Delta II accident at CCAFS. DOE's risk assessment for this project indicates that in the event of a launch accident the expected impacts of released radioactive material at and in the vicinity of the launch area, and on a global basis, would be small.

FEIS Review Copies

The FEIS may be reviewed during normal business hours at the following locations:

(a) NASA Headquarters, Library, Room 1J20, 300 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20546.

(b) Spaceport U.S.A., Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler at 321–867–2201 so that arrangements can be made.

(c) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818–354–5179).

In addition, the FEIS may be examined at the following NASA Centers by contacting the Freedom of Information Act Office at the respective Center:

(d) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (650–604–1181).

(e) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, P.O. Box 273, Edwards, CA 93523 (661–276–2704).

(f) NASA, Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216–433–2755).

(g) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301–286–0730).

(h) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281–483–8612).

(i) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681 (757–864–2497).

(j) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812 (256–544–2030).

(k) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (228–688–2164).

Limited hard copies of the FEIS are available, on a first request basis, by contacting David Lavery, Office of Space Science, Mail Code SM, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546–0001, telephone 202–358–4800, or electronic mail *marsnepa@hq.nasa.gov.*

Electronic Access

The FEIS is also available in Acrobat® format at *http://spacescience.nasa.gov/admin/pubs/mereis/index.htm.*

Copies of the Record of Decision

Copies of the record of decision, when issued, may be obtained upon written request to David Lavery, Office of Space Science, Mail Code SM, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546–0001.

Dated: December 5, 2002.

Jeffrey E. Sutton,

Assistant Administrator for Management Systems.

[FR Doc. 02–31127 Filed 12–9–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510–01–P

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND PLACE: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 17, 2002.

PLACE: NTSB Conference Center, 429 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20594.

STATUS: The two items are Open to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

7454A—Marine Accident Report—Collision Between the U.S. Coast Guard Patrol Boat *CG242513* and the U.S. Small Passenger Vessel *Bayside Blaster,* Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida, January 12, 2002.

7513—Highway Accident Brief—Motorcoach run-off-the-road, near Canon City, Colorado, on December 21, 1999.

New Media Contact: Telephone: (202) 314–6100.

Individuals requesting specific accommodations should contact Ms. Carolyn Dargan at (202) 314–6305 by Friday, December 13, 2002.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Vicky D'Onofrio, (202) 314–6410.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Vicky D'Onofrio,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 02–31230 Filed 12–6–02; 2:07 pm]

BILLING CODE 7533–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–318]

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Inc., Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 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 50.44, 46 and Appendix K for Facility Operating License No. DPR–69, issued to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Inc. (the licensee), for operation of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 2 (Calvert Cliffs), located in Calvert County, Maryland. 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, as described in the licensee's application for exemption

dated July 12, 2002, would allow the licensee to use up to four lead fuel assemblies (LFAs) with an advanced cladding material, a zirconium-based alloy, that does not meet the definition of Zircaloy or ZIRLO, which are referred to in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 50.46(a)(1)(i). The LFAs are scheduled to be loaded into the Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 reactor core during the upcoming refueling outage and would remain in the core for two (2) cycles.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption from 10 CFR 50.44, 10 CFR 50.46, and Appendix K to 10 CFR part 50 is needed because these regulations specifically refer to light-water reactors containing fuel consisting of uranium oxide pellets enclosed in zircaloy or ZIRLO tubes. A new zirconium-based alloy cladding has been developed, which is not the same chemical composition as zircaloy or ZIRLO. Therefore, the licensee needs an exemption to insert up to four assemblies containing the new fuel cladding material into the Calvert Cliffs reactor core for test during operation.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemption will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety. The safety evaluation performed by Westinghouse demonstrates that the predicted chemical, mechanical and material performance of the Advance zirconium-based cladding is within that approved for Zircaloy-4 or ZIRLO under all anticipated operational occurrences and postulated accidents. Furthermore, the LFAs will be placed in non-limiting core locations. In the unlikely event that cladding failures occur in the LFAs, environmental impact would be minimal and is bounded by previous environmental impact statements.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released off site, 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.

In 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 NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Environmental Impacts of the 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

The action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant (CCNPP) dated April 1973 or the Final Environmental Impact Statement for licence renewal for the CCNPP dated October 1999.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On September 5, 2002, the staff consulted with the Maryland State official, Richard McLean of the Maryland Department of the Environment, 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 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.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated July 17, 2002. 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 Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, *http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* 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 to *pdr@nrc.gov.*

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of December 2002.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Guy S. Vissing,

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

[FR Doc. 02–31167 Filed 12–9–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket 72–17]

Portland General Electric Company Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Proposed Amendment to Materials License No. SNM–2509

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.56, to Special Nuclear Material License No. 2509 (SNM–2509) held by Portland General Electric Company (PGE) for the Trojan Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). The requested amendment would revise the ISFSI license (SNM–2509) and the Technical Specifications (TS) of SNM–2509 to increase the Multi-Purpose Canister (MPC) helium backfill upper pressure limit at the Trojan ISFSI.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Identification of Proposed Action: By letter dated October 18, 2002, PGE requested an amendment to revise the license (SNM–2509) and the TS of SNM–2509 for the Trojan ISFSI. The changes would increase the MPC helium backfill upper pressure limit, make an editorial clarification, and make similar changes to the helium backfill upper pressure limit in the description of the cask loading operations. The current license specifies the MPC is to be backfilled with helium with a pressure between 29.3 psig and 33.3 psig. The amendment requests the upper limit be changed from 33.3 psig to 39.3 psig.

Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed action is necessary to minimize worker exposure during spent fuel loading activities and to maintain spent fuel parameters within required limits. Current helium backfill equipment, to be used during loading operations at the Trojan facility, cannot demonstrate backfill of the MPC free volume with helium accurately enough to satisfy TS requirements. Alternative