

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer listed below by May 5, 2000. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given to comments received after this date. Erik Godwin, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0039), NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments can also be submitted by telephone at (202) 395-3087.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, 301-415-7233.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-8334 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

ACTION: Notice of the OMB review of information collection and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The NRC has recently submitted to OMB for review the following proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The NRC hereby informs potential respondents that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and that a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

1. *Type of submission, new, revision, or extension:* Extension.

2. *The title of the information collection:* 10 CFR Part 62—"Criteria and Procedures for Emergency Access to non-Federal and Regional Low-level Waste Disposal Facilities."

3. *The form number, if applicable:* N/A.

4. *How often the collection is required:* Requests are made only when access to a non-Federal low-level waste disposal facility is denied, which results in a threat to public health and safety and/or common defense and security.

5. *Who is required or asked to report:* Generators of low-level waste who are denied access to a non-Federal low-level waste facility.

6. *An estimate of the number of responses:* It is estimated that up to one response would be received every three years.

7. *The estimated number of annual respondents:* No requests for emergency access have been received to date. It is estimated that up to one request would be made every three years.

8. *An estimate of the number of hours needed annually to complete the requirement or request:* It is estimated that 680 hours would be required to prepare the request, or approximately 227 hours per year.

9. *An indication of whether Section 3507(d), Pub. L. 104-13 applies:* Not applicable.

10. *Abstract:* Part 62 sets out the information which will have to be provided to the NRC by any low-level waste generator seeking emergency access to an operating low-level waste disposal facility. The information is required to allow NRC to determine if denial of disposal constitutes a serious and immediate threat to public health and safety or common defense and security.

A copy of the final supporting statement may be viewed free of charge at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW (lower level), Washington, DC. OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC worldwide web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/OMB/index.html>). The document will be available on the NRC home page site for 60 days after the signature date of this notice.

Comments and questions should be directed to the OMB reviewer by May 5, 2000: Erik Godwin, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0143), NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Comments can also be submitted by telephone at (202) 395-3087.

The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, 301-415-7233.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of March, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brenda Jo. Shelton,

NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-8337 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-293]

Entergy Nuclear Generation Company (Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station); Exemption

I

Entergy Nuclear Generation Company (Entergy or the licensee) is the owner of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim), and is authorized to possess, use, and operate the facility as reflected in Facility Operating License No. DPR-35. Pilgrim is a boiling-water reactor located at the licensee's site in Plymouth County, on the southeast coast of the State of Massachusetts. The license provides, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

II

Section IV.F.2.c of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 requires each licensee at each site to conduct an exercise of offsite emergency plans biennially with full participation by each offsite authority having a role under the plan. During such biennial full-participation exercises, the NRC evaluates onsite and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluates offsite emergency preparedness activities. The licensee conducted a biennial full-participation exercise and 6-year ingestion exercise in December 1999. By letter dated July 30, 1999, as supplemented on September 23, 1999, the licensee requested an exemption from Sections IV.F.2.c of Appendix E regarding the conduct of a full-participation exercise in 2001. The requested exemption is to conduct the next biennial full-participation exercise that should occur in 2001, a few months later, tentatively in May 2002. Future full-participation exercises will be scheduled biennially from the year 2002. The NRC has provided flexibility in scheduling these exercises by allowing licensees to schedule full-participation exercises at any time during the biennial calendar year. This provides a 12- to 36-month window to schedule full-participation exercises while still meeting the biennial requirement specified in the regulations. Conducting the Pilgrim full-participation exercise in calendar year 2002 places the exercise past the previously scheduled biennial exercise that had been scheduled for calendar year 2001. However, the interval

between biennial exercises would be 29 months, which is within the parameters of the existing general policy and practice.

The Commission, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(1), may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 that are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission, however, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), will not consider granting an exemption unless special circumstances are present. Under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), special circumstances are present when application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. Under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v), special circumstances are present whenever the exemption would provide only temporary relief from the applicable regulation and the licensee or applicant has made good faith efforts to comply with the regulation.

III

The staff has completed its evaluation of Entergy's request for an exemption and the measures that will be taken to maintain the level of emergency preparedness at Pilgrim between December 1999 and May 2002. By letter dated September 23, 1999, the licensee provided supplemental information in support of the exemption request. The existing training and drill schedule currently in place for emergency response activities will remain in place to ensure the readiness of both onsite and offsite emergency response personnel. For onsite emergency responders, this includes annual classroom training and participation in drills. The licensee will conduct quarterly combined functional and/or activation drills and a self-evaluated annual exercise. These drills and the self-evaluated annual exercise satisfy the drill requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, IV.F.2.b. Offsite agencies in Massachusetts are routinely invited to, and actively participate in, these drills and exercises as a training activity for offsite responders personnel. Local response groups are offered annual training and participation in emergency operations center drills. Representatives of the licensee meet monthly with State and local emergency management and support groups. The rescheduling of the biennial exercise has been discussed in these meetings and greeted with support by both State and local representatives. Rescheduling the exercise to 1 year later

allows more freedom in the scheduling of exercises by scheduling the exercise to the years in which the licensee does not have scheduled refueling outages. The staff considers that these measures are adequate to maintain an acceptable level of emergency preparedness during this period, satisfying the underlying purpose of the rule. Therefore, the special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) are satisfied.

Only temporary relief from the regulation is provided by the requested exemption since an exercise will be conducted at a future date. The licensee has made a good faith effort to comply with the regulation. The exemption is being sought by the licensee in voluntary response to a request by the NRC to accommodate an adjustment in exercise scheduling that affects multiple agencies. The revised exercise schedule allows for better balance in the utilization of Federal resources, and added flexibility to the scheduling of exercises for the licensee and State and local agencies. The exercise will be conducted in a timeframe that is within generally accepted policy. The staff, having considered the schedule and resource issues within FEMA and the NRC, and the proposed licensee compensatory measures, believes that the exemption request meets the special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v) and should be granted.

IV

The Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, this exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Further, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), that special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii) and 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(v) are applicable in that application of the regulation is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule, and the exemption would provide only temporary relief from the applicable regulation and the licensee has made good faith efforts to comply with the regulation. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the exemption from Section IV.F.2.c of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (65 FR 16972).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-8336 Filed 4-4-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-460-OL; ASLBP No. 82-479-06-OL]

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board; Washington Public Power Supply System (Nuclear Project No. 1), Memorandum and Order; (Order to Show Cause)

MARCH 30, 2000. Before Administrative Judges: G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chairman, Dr. David R. Schink.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hereby directs the parties to this proceeding to show cause as to why this litigation should not be dismissed for want of prosecution.

The locus of this case is a challenge by intervenor Coalition for Safe Power (CSP) to the operating license application of Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) (now doing business as Energy Northwest) for its Nuclear Project No. 1. CSP, along with the State of Washington (State) as a 10 C.F.R. § 2.715(c) interested governmental entity, were admitted as parties to this proceeding in 1983. *See Washington Public Power Supply System* (WPPSS Nuclear Project No. 1), LBP-83-66, 18 NRC 780, 780-81 (1983). Since then, however, this proceeding has been in hiatus as a result of WPPSS declarations that it first wished to suspend facility construction and consideration of its operating license request and, thereafter, that it was canceling the project, albeit without withdrawing its operating license application.

After a number of years of filing quarterly reports indicating there had been no change in the status of its application, on January 4, 2000, WPPSS submitted a request to withdraw its operating license application and terminate this adjudicatory proceeding. The Board twice sought, and did not receive, CSP and State comments on the WPPSS withdrawal motion. Before the Board could act on the WPPSS request, however, the applicant filed a February 29, 2000 pleading asking that the Board defer action on its application withdrawal motion. In a March 7, 2000 order providing a schedule for party comments on this WPPSS deferral request, noting the lack of CSP and State