Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

Name: U.S. National Assessment Synthesis Team (#5219).

Date and Time: May 31, 2000, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., June 1, 2000, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Place: Renaissance Hotel, 999 Ninth Street, NW, Washington DC 20001.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Dr. Thomas Spence, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 705, Arlington, VA 22230. Tel. 703–306–1502; Fax: 703–306–0372; E-mail: tspence@nsf.gov. Interested persons should contact Ms. Susan Henson at the above number as soon as possible to ensure space provisions are made for all participants and observers.

Minutes: May be obtained subsequent to the meeting from the contact person listed above.

Purpose of Meeting: To review preparation of the report the National Assessment Synthesis Team is preparing for the interagency Subcommittee on Global Change Research to report on the findings of the National Assessment of the potential consequences of climate variability and climate change for the United States.

Agenda: Day 1 (May 31): Members will review technical comments received and will discuss revisions to report; and opportunity for public comment will be provided in later afternoon. Day 2 (June 1): Discussion of technical comments and revisions will continue.

Dated: May 12, 2000.

Karen J. York,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–12454 Filed 5–17–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–M

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice

''FEDERAL REGISTER'' CITATION OF PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT: Vol. 65, No. 90/Tuesday, May 9, 2000.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED TIME AND DATE: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 16, 2000.

CHANGE IN MEETING: A majority of the Board Members determined by recorded vote that the business of the Board required moving the Board Meeting date from Tuesday, May 16, 2000 to Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at this time and that no earlier announcement was possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rhonda Underwood, (202) 314–6065.

Dated: May 15, 2000.

Rhonda Underwood,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 00–12592 Filed 5–15–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–423–LA–3; ASLBP No. 00–771–01–LA]

In the Matter of Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3; Facility Operating License NPF–49); Notice of Oral Argument and Opportunity for Oral Limited Appearance Statements

May 12, 2000.

This proceeding involves the proposed increase in capacity (through the addition of high-density storage racks) of the spent fuel storage pool of the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, in New London County, Connecticut. Notice is hereby given that, as described in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Memorandum and Order (Schedules for Proceeding), dated April 19, 2000, the oral argument prescribed by 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart K, §§ 2.1109 and 2.1113 will take place at the Richard Martin Center Auditorium, 120 Broad Street, New London, CT, on Wednesday, July 19, 2000, beginning at 9:00 a.m. To the extent necessary, the oral argument will continue on Thursday, July 20, 2000, at the same location, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

As set forth in the February 9, 2000 Notice of Hearing for this proceeding, 65 FR 7573 (Feb. 15, 2000), the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, pursuant to 10 CFR 2.715(a), will entertain limited appearance statements from any person who is not a party to the proceeding, for the purpose of stating his or her views on the issues involved in this proceeding. Although these statements are not testimony or evidence and do not become part of the decisional record, they may assist the Licensing Board and the parties in their consideration of matters at issue in this proceeding.

Limited appearance statements may be submitted in writing at any time during this proceeding. In addition, in conjunction with the aforesaid oral argument, the Board has determined to hear oral limited appearance statements, at the Radisson Hotel, Ballroom 1 and 2, 35 Governor Winthrop Blvd., New London, Connecticut, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18, 2000 (or such lesser time as is necessary to accommodate speakers who are present). Further oral limited appearance statements will be heard on Thursday, July 20, 2000, at the Richard Martin Center Auditorium, for a two-hour period (or such lesser time as is necessary to accommodate speakers who are present) beginning at 9:00 a.m. or following conclusion of the oral argument, if such argument is not completed on July 19. Each oral statement may normally extend for up to approximately 5 minutes.

Written limited appearance statements, and requests to make oral statements, should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. A copy of such statement or request should also be served on the Chairman of this Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, T–3 F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, or CXB2@nrc.gov. Those who have filed written requests to make statements will be given preference as to the time of their statements.

Documents related to this proceeding, issued prior to December 1, 1999, are available in print form for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), 2120 L St. NW, Washington, DC. Documents issued subsequent to November 1, 1999 are available electronically through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), with access to the public through NRC's Internet Web site (Public Electronic Reading Room Link, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>).

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, May 12, 2000.

Charles Bechhoefer,

Chairman, Administrative Judge.

[FR Doc. 00–12550 Filed 5–17–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–193]

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission, Nuclear 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–95, issued to Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission (the licensee) for operation of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow extension of the license expiration time from August 27, 2002, to November 28,

2004, for the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor. By letter dated March 4, 2000, and supplement dated March 21, 2000, the licensee requested this license extension in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.90. The licensee submitted an Environmental Report with their supplement dated March 21, 2000.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to allow continued operation of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor for medical, environmental and physical science research, and development activities beyond the current term of the license.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor is on the Narragansett Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island, in Narragansett, Rhode Island. The research reactor is housed in a metal and concrete building.

The Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor is a moderate power (2 megawatts), pool-type research reactor. The NRC licensed the facility for operation up to 1 megawatt power level in 1964 and authorized operations up to 2 megawatts in 1968. Since 1964, the facility has operated 1625.4 megawatt-hours per year on average. The NRC ordered conversion from high-enriched to low-enriched uranium fuel in 1993. Data from recent operations, from 1995 to 1999, was assessed. The gaseous radiological release of Argon-41, the primary airborne effluent, has ranged from a high of 236.52 curies (Ci) in 1995 to a low of 50 Ci in 1999. Liquid effluents have been relatively small with the highest value in 1999 at 0.55 mCi. Low-level solid radioactive waste between 1995 and 1999 was 11.6 mCi in 56.8 cubic feet of material.

The Commission concludes that the radiological effects of the continued operation will be minimal based on past radiological releases. The radiological exposures for facility operations have been within regulatory limits. Conditions are not expected to change significantly.

As for potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, no significant non-radiological environmental impacts are associated with the proposed action.

In addition, the environmental impact associated with operation of research reactors has been generically evaluated by the staff and is discussed in the attached generic evaluation. This evaluation concludes that no significant environmental impact is associated with the operation of research reactors licensed to operate at power levels up to and including 2 megawatts thermal. We have determined that this generic evaluation is applicable to operation of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor and that there are no special or unique features that would preclude reliance on the generic evaluation.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. 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 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.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

An alternative to the proposed action for the Research Reactor Facility is to deny the application (*i.e.,* ''no action'' alternative). If the applications is denied, the licensee has indicated that it would apply for license renewal and operate under the timely renewal provisions of 10 CFR 2.109 until the Commission renewed or denied the license renewal application. With operation under timely renewal or renewal, the actual conditions of the reactor would not change. If the Commission denied license renewal, Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Research Reactor Operations would stop and decommissioning would be required with a likely small impact on the environment. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Hazards Analysis prepared for the issuance of the license in April 1963.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

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 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.

On March 22, 2000, the staff consulted with the State of Rhode Island Division of Occupational & Radiological Health Official, Charles McMahon, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comment.

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 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 March 4, 2000, and supplement dated March 21, 2000, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of April 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ledyard B. Marsh,

Chief, Events Assessment, Generic Communications, and Non-Power Reactors Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Attachment—Environmental Considerations Regarding the Licensing of Research Reactors and Critical Facilities

Introduction

This discussion deals with research reactors and critical facilities which are designed to operate at low power levels, 2 MWt and lower, and are used primarily for basic research in neutron physics, neutron radiography, isotope production, experiments associated with nuclear engineering, training and as a part of a nuclear physics curriculum. Operation of such facilities will generally not exceed a 5-day week, 8-hour day, or about 2000 hours per year. Such reactors are located adjacent to technical service support facilities with convenient access for students and faculty.

Sited most frequently on the campuses of large universities, the reactors are usually housed in already existing structures, appropriately modified, or placed in new buildings that are designed and constructed to blend in with existing facilities. However, the environmental considerations discussed herein are not limited to those which are part of universities.

Facility

There are no exterior conduits, pipelines, electrical or mechanical structures or transmission lines attached to or adjacent to the facility other than for utility services, which are similar to those required in other

similar facilities, specifically laboratories. Heat dissipation is generally accomplished by use of a cooling tower located on the roof of the building. These cooling towers typically are on the order of $10' \times 10' \times 10'$ and are comparable to cooling towers associated with the air-conditioning systems of large office buildings.

Make-up for the cooling system is readily available and usually obtained from the local water supply. Radioactive gaseous effluents are limited to Ar-41 and the release of radioactive liquid effluents can be carefully monitored and controlled. Liquid wastes are collected in storage tanks to allow for decay and monitoring prior to dilution and release to the sanitary sewer system. Solid radioactive wastes are packaged and shipped offsite for storage at NRC-approved sites. The transportation of such waste is done in accordance with existing NRC–DOT regulations in approved shipping containers.

Chemical and sanitary waste systems are similar to those existing at other similar laboratories and buildings.

Environmental Effects of Site Preparation and Facility Construction

Construction of such facilities invariably occurs in areas that have already been disturbed by other building construction and, in some cases, solely within an already existing building. Therefore, construction would not be expected to have any significant effect on the terrain, vegetation, wildlife or nearby waters or aquatic life. The societal, economic and aesthetic impacts of construction would be no greater than those associated with the construction of a large office building or similar research facility.

Environmental Effects of Facility Operation

Release of thermal effluents from a reactor of less than 2 MWt will not have a significant effect on the environment. This small amount of waste heat is generally rejected to the atmosphere by means of small cooling towers. Extensive drift and/or fog will not occur at this low power level.

Release of routine gaseous effluents can be limited to Ar-41, which Is generated by neutron activation of air. Even this will be kept as low as practicable by using gases other than air for supporting experiments. Yearly doses to un-restricted areas will be at or below established guidelines in 10 CFR part 20 limits. Routine releases of radioactive liquid effluents can be carefully monitored and controlled in a manner that will ensure compliance with current standards. Solid radioactive wastes will be shipped to an authorized disposal site in approved containers. These wastes should not require more than a few shipping containers a year.

Based on experience with other research reactors, specifically TRIGA reactors operating in the 1 to 2 MWt range, the annual release of gaseous and liquid effluents to unrestricted areas should be less than 30 curies and 0.01 curies, respectively.

No release of potentially harmful chemical substances will occur during normal operation. Small amounts of chemicals and/or high-solid content water may be released from the facility through the sanitary sewer during periodic blowdown of the cooling tower or from laboratory experiments.

Other potential effects of the facility, such as aesthetics, noise, societal or impact on local flora and fauna are expected to be too small to measure.

Environmental Effects of Accidents

Accidents ranging from the failure of experiments up to the largest core damage and fission product release considered possible result in doses that are less than 10 CFR part 20 guidelines and are considered negligible with respect to the environment.

Unavoidable Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The unavoidable effects of construction and operation involve the materials used in construction that cannot be recovered and the fissionable material used in the reactor. No adverse impact on the environment is expected from either of these unavoidable effects.

Alternatives to Construction and Operation of the Facility

To accomplish the objectives associated with research reactors, there are no suitable alternatives. Some of these objectives are training of students in the operation of reactors, production of radioisotopes, and use of neutron and gamma ray beams to conduct experiments.

Long-Term Effects of Facility Construction and Operation

The long-tern effects of research facilities are considered to be beneficial as a result of the contribution to scientific knowledge and training. Because of the relatively small amount of capital resources involved and the small impact on the environment, very little irreversible and irretrievable commitment is associated with such facilities.

Costs and Benefits of Facility Alternatives

The costs are on the order of several millions of dollars with very little environmental impact. The benefits include, but are not limited to, some combination of the following: conduct of activation analyses, conduct of neutron radiography, training of operating personnel, and education of students. Some of these activities could be conducted using particle accelerators or radioactive sources which would be more costly and less efficient. There is no reasonable alternative to a nuclear research reactor for conducting this spectrum of activities.

Conclusion

The staff concludes that there will be no significant environmental impact associated with the licensing of research reactors or critical facilities designed to operate at power levels of 2 MWt or lower and that no environmental impact statements are required to be written for the issuance of construction permits or operating licenses for such facilities.

[FR Doc. 00–12554 Filed 5–17–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Experts' Meeting on High-Burnup Fuel Behavior Under Postulated Accident Conditions

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a meeting to further develop a Phenomena Identification and Ranking Table (PIRT) for fuel rod response to loss of coolant accidents (LOCAs). PIRTs have been used at NRC since 1988, and they provide a structured way to obtain a technical understanding that is needed to address certain issues. About twenty of the world's best technical experts are participating in this activity, and the experts represent a balance between industry, universities, foreign researchers, and regulatory organizations. The current PIRT activity is addressing postulated LOCAs in a BWR and a PWR.

DATES: May 31–June 2, 2000, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Room T10A1 (TWFN) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting agenda will be posted on the NRC Web site at *http://www.nrc.gov/RES/meetings.htm* by May 25, 2000. The meeting is open to the public. Attendees will need to obtain a visitor badge at the TWFN building lobby.