

increased environmental impact as a result of handling the BPRAs separately as low-level waste. The alternative to the proposed action would be to deny approval of the exemption and, therefore, require Duke to disassemble and store the BPRAs as low-level waste in separate containers.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On January 24, 2000, the Division of Radiation Control, South Carolina Department of Health, was contacted about the EA for the proposed action and had no concerns.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR part 51. Based upon the foregoing EA, the Commission finds that the proposed action of granting an exemption from 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2) and 72.214 so that Duke may store spent nuclear fuel containing BPRAs in the NUHOMS®-24P storage system will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this exemption request, see the Duke exemption request dated August 30, 1999, which is docketed under 10 CFR part 72, Docket Nos. 72-4 and 72-40.

The exemption request is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of February 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

E. William Brach,

Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

General Electric Company; Vallecitos Nuclear Center; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will conduct a public meeting on various aspects of the Commission's responsibilities for the regulation of the General Electric (GE) Vallecitos Nuclear Center in Sunol, California. The facility is operated by

the General Electric Company, an NRC licensee. The objective of the meeting is to ensure that the public has knowledge about the activities that take place at Vallecitos, and understands the NRC's responsibilities in respect to these activities. The NRC staff will discuss these matters with the public, including answering questions and listening to public comments.

The meeting will be held the evening of Thursday, February 24, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by an informal open house beginning at 6:00 p.m. to allow the public an opportunity to talk with the NRC staff and other organizations such as citizen groups, and state and local government officials.

The meeting will be held at the Pleasanton Public Library in Pleasanton, California. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, California, 94566. The Library's main phone number is 925-931-3400.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Francis X. Cameron, Special Counsel for Public Liaison, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555, Telephone: 301-415-1642, email: fxc@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The General Electric Company has been engaged since 1955 in various activities involving nuclear energy at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center located near Pleasanton, California. One of the ongoing activities is research and development on the physical and chemical analysis of irradiated reactor fuel at the facilities Radioactive Materials Laboratory. GE possesses a Special Nuclear Materials License from the NRC that authorizes them to perform this work. The work requires periodic shipments of irradiated nuclear fuel into the facility from various sites throughout the United States. The Vallecitos site also houses three permanently shutdown reactors, and an operating research reactor, licensed by the NRC. In addition, the facility also fabricates radioactive sources used in medicine and industry under a license issued by the State of California.

The NRC previously held a public meeting on the Vallecitos facility on October 20, 1999, in Livermore, California. In order to ensure that the public has the necessary information about the facility, and to provide sufficient time for public discussion of this information, the NRC has scheduled an additional public meeting on the Vallecitos facility for February 24, 2000. The NRC staff will address the issues previously covered at the October 20, 1999, meeting, and also provide

additional information on issues that were raised by the public at the October 20, 1999, meeting. A detailed agenda for the meeting will be available at the meeting. Anticipated topics are the research and development activities involving the NRC Special Nuclear Materials license at the facility, related radioactive materials transportation activities, the status of the permanently shutdown reactors and the operating research reactor at the facility, and related NRC inspection activities. Francis X. Cameron, Special Counsel for Public Liaison, at the NRC will serve as the facilitator for the meeting.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of February, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Theodore S. Sherr,

Chief, Licensing and International Safeguards Branch, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards; Subcommittee Meeting on Planning and Procedures; Notice of Meeting

The ACRS Subcommittee on Planning and Procedures will hold a meeting on February 29, 2000, Room T-2B1, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

The entire meeting will be open to public attendance, with the exception of a portion that may be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (2) and (6) to discuss organizational and personnel matters that relate solely to internal personnel rules and practices of ACRS, and information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

Tuesday, February 29, 2000—8:30 a.m. until the conclusion of business

The Subcommittee will discuss proposed ACRS activities and related matters. It will also discuss matters scheduled for the ACRS meeting with the Commission on Thursday, March 2, 2000. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and to formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the full Committee.

Oral statements may be presented by members of the public with the concurrence of the Subcommittee Chairman; written statements will be