

For the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Charles Bechhoefer,

Chairman, Administrative Judge.

[FR Doc. 98-9999 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8968-ML; ASLBP No. 95-706-01-ML]

Hydro Resources, Inc.; Notice of Reconstitution

Pursuant to the authority contained in 10 CFR 2.721 and 2.1207, the Presiding Officer in the captioned Subpart L proceeding is hereby replaced by appointing Administrative Judge Peter B. Bloch as Presiding Officer in place of Chief Administrative Judge B. Paul Cotter, Jr.

All correspondence, documents and other material shall be filed with the Presiding Officer in accordance with 10 CFR 2.1203 (1997). The address of the new Presiding Officer is: Administrative Judge Peter B. Bloch, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Issued at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of April 1998.

B. Paul Cotter, Jr.,

Chief Administrative Judge, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel.

[FR Doc. 98-9996 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Illinois Power Company; Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Exemption to 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 17 and Amendment to Facility Operating License

[Docket No. 50-461]

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Illinois Power Company (the licensee) to withdraw its July 22, 1997, application for proposed exemption to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion (GDC) 17, "Electric Power Systems," and amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 for the Clinton Power Station, located in DeWitt County, Illinois.

The proposed exemption and amendment would have temporarily permitted plant operation with one fully qualified offsite circuit and one circuit

that does not strictly conform to the capacity and capability requirements of GDC-17.

The Commission had previously issued an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact published in the **Federal Register** on July 25, 1997 (62 FR 40123). However, by letter dated September 30, 1997, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption and amendment dated July 22, 1997, supplemented July 23, August 1, and August 12, 1997, and the licensee's letter dated September 30, 1997, which withdrew the application for exemption and license amendment. The above documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Vespasian Warner Public Library, 310 N. Quincy Street, Clinton, IL 61727.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jon B. Hopkins,

Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate III-3, Division of Reactor Projects—III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-9995 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-146]

Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation, GPU Nuclear, Inc.; Notice of Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact; Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of a license amendment to the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) and GPU Nuclear, Inc. (the licensees) that would allow decommissioning of the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF) located near Saxton, Pennsylvania.

Description of Proposed Action

The proposed action is immediate dismantlement (the DECON alternative) of the SNEF. The licensees have requested an amendment to Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 that would allow decommissioning of the SNEF by changing the license and technical specifications to (1) accommodate

decommissioning activities at the SNEF, (2) establish specific technical specification controls over decommissioning activities, (3) establish limiting conditions for performing decommissioning activities, (4) extend exclusion area controls to include the SNEF Decommissioning Support Facility, (5) establish requirements for a Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program and an Off-Site Dose Calculation Manual, and (6) establish requirements for Technical and Independent Safety Reviews.

Built in 1960-62 under a license to SNEC, the facility was operated from 1962 to 1972 primarily for research and training. In 1972, the SNEF was shut down and placed in a condition equivalent to what is now defined by the NRC as "SAFSTOR" (safe storage) and its operating license was changed to possession-only status. In 1972, all fuel, the control rod blades, and the superheated steam test loop were removed from the SNEF containment vessel (CV) and returned to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at its Savannah River Plant in South Carolina. After the fuel was removed, equipment, most tanks, and piping external to the CV were also removed. Buildings and structures that supported reactor operations were partially decontaminated in 1972-74. Final decontamination of reactor support structures and buildings was done in 1987-89. This process included decontamination of the Control and Auxiliary Building, Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility, Yard Pipe Tunnel, and Filled Drum Storage Bunker, as well as removal of the Refueling Water Storage Tank. After acceptance of the final release survey by the NRC, these buildings were demolished in 1992. The Saxton Soil Remediation Project was completed in November 1994 which removed and shipped to a licensed radioactive waste disposal facility soil that was located within the site perimeter and found to be contaminated with radioactive material.

In preparation for release of the site for unrestricted use, the licensees now propose to decontaminate and dismantle the SNEF CV; the concrete shield wall located around the northwest and northeast quadrants of the CV; the tunnel sections that are immediately adjacent to the outer circumference of the CV; and remaining portions of the septic system, weirs, and associated underground piping. These structures contain known or suspected residual radioactive material.

Summary of the Environmental Assessment

The purpose of decommissioning a nuclear facility is to remove the facility safely from service, and to reduce residual radioactivity at the site to levels that permit the license granted by the NRC to be terminated.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensees' application and the SNEC Decommissioning Environmental Report prepared in accordance with 10 CFR 51.53(d). The staff also referred to the SNEC Facility Updated Safety Analysis Report, Revisions 0, 1, and 2 and the SNEC Facility Decommissioning Quality Assurance Plan. To document its review, the staff has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) which examined decommissioning alternatives, non-radiological and radiological impacts of decommissioning, and effects of postulated radiological accidents during decommissioning. The alternatives available for decommissioning—DECON, ENTOMB, SAFSTOR, and no action—are evaluated and discussed in the "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities," NUREG-0586, dated August 1988 (GEIS). Based on its review of the licensees' application and plans for decommissioning described in the Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR), the staff has determined that the environmental impacts, both radiological and nonradiological, associated with the decommissioning of the SNEF, are bounded by the impacts evaluated by the GEIS and have been adequately evaluated by the licensees. The staff also finds that the proposed decommissioning of the SNEF complies with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I, and 10 CFR Part 20.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The staff has reviewed the licensees' application for license amendment and environmental report in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. Based upon the EA, the staff concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, not to prepare an environmental impact statement.

For further details with respect to this action see (1) the application for license amendment dated November 25, 1996, as supplemented on May 30, June 4 and 16, August 21 and September 16, 1997,

and February 3 and 9, 1998, (2) the SNEC Decommissioning Environmental Report submitted on April 17, 1996, and the licensees' response to Commission questions about the environmental report dated July 18, 1996, and March 3 and 31, 1998, (3) the SNEC Facility Updated Safety Analysis Report, Revision 0, submitted on October 25, 1996, Revision 1, submitted on August 21, 1997, and Revision 2, submitted on February 3, 1998, (4) the SNEC Facility Decommissioning Quality Assurance Plan submitted by letter dated November 8, 1996, as supplemented on May 30, 1997, and February 3 and 9, 1998, (5) the PSDAR (originally submitted as the SNEF Decommissioning Plan) dated February 1996, which was submitted on February 16, 1996, as supplemented on July 18, 1996, and (6) the EA dated March 1998. These documents are available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20003, and at the Local Public Document Room for the SNEF at the Saxton Community Library, Front Street, Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678. Single copies of the EA may be obtained from Alexander Adams Jr., Senior Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, M.S. O-11-B-20, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of April 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Marvin M. Mendonca,

Acting Director, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-9994 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste; Revised

The agenda for the 100th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) scheduled to be held on April 21-23, 1998, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, has been revised. On Thursday, April 23 the Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, DOE, will provide an overview of DOE high level waste activities. In addition, Ms. C. Hanlon, DOE will update the Committee on site characterization activities at Yucca Mountain.

All other items pertaining to this meeting remains the same as published

in the **Federal Register** on Monday, April 6, 1998 (63 FR 16831).

Further information regarding this meeting can be obtained by contacting Mr. Richard K. Major, Chief, Nuclear Waste Branch (telephone 301/415-7366), between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. EDT.

ACNW meeting agenda, meeting transcripts, and letter reports are available for downloading or reviewing on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/ACRSACNW>.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

Andrew L. Bates,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-9997 Filed 4-14-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-133]

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Humboldt Bay Power Plant; Notice of Public Meeting

The NRC will conduct a public meeting at the Eureka Inn, 518 7th Street, Eureka, California, on April 29, 1998, to discuss plans developed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E, the Humboldt Bay Power Plant licensee) to decommission the Humboldt Bay Power Plant located near Eureka, California. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be chaired by Mr. Stan Dixon, 1st District Supervisor, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The meeting will include a short presentation by the NRC staff on the decommissioning process and NRC programs for monitoring decommissioning activities, with attention being given to the licensee's updated Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) dated February 27, 1998. There will also be a presentation by PG&E on their planned decommissioning activities, and there will be an opportunity for members of the public to make comments and question the NRC staff and PG&E representatives. The meeting will be transcribed.

The licensee's update to the PSDAR provides a short discussion of the plant history, and a description and schedule of planned decommissioning activities. The PSDAR update also comments briefly on anticipated decommissioning costs and environmental impacts.

The PSDAR update is available for public inspection at the local public document room, located at the Humboldt County Library, 1313 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501, and the