

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**[Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311]****PSEG Nuclear, LLC, Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 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 55, Section 55.59(c) for Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, issued to PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG or the licensee), for operation of the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Salem), located in Salem County, New Jersey. 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 would exempt the facility licensee on a one-time basis from the 24 month schedule requirement of 10 CFR 55.59(c) for completing the licensed operator requalification training program at Salem.

The proposed action is in accordance with the facility licensee's application for exemption docketed October 28, 2002.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would extend the date for the facility licensee to complete the licensed operator requalification training program at Salem. The proposed action would extend the date for completing the training program from October 3, 2002, to January 9, 2003, therefore extending the training program by approximately 3 months over the schedule required by 10 CFR 55.59(c). This proposed action is needed to allow Salem to align their requalification training program with the training program at the Hope Creek Nuclear Generating station.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes, as set forth below, that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the extension of the licensed operator requalification program at Salem from October 3, 2002, to January 9, 2003.

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.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological 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 Salem.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, the staff consulted with the New Jersey State official, Mr. D. Zannoni, on November 14, 2002, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of this 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 PSEG's letter dated October 28, 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 pdrc@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of January 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Victor Nerses,

Acting Chief, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 03-374 Filed 1-8-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Nickel-Base Alloy, Vessel Head Penetration Conference**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of conference.

SUMMARY: NRC Research will sponsor a three-day conference addressing issues of flaw detection and crack growth rate modeling and applications for nickel-base alloys used as vessel head penetrations (VHP) and other pressure boundary attachments. Participants will include a domestic and an international audience consisting of reactor operators, regulatory personnel, and researchers involved in the solution of the structural integrity issues arising from crack growth and leakage through Alloy 600 components, cladding and associated attachment welds. The conference will be structured to include presentations by industry, regulatory and laboratory representatives, as well as open discussion of the critical issues. There are no restrictions on attendance at this conference.

DATES: March 24-26, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Marriot Gaithersburg/Washingtonian Center, 9751 Washingtonian Boulevard, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Natesan, Argonne National Laboratory, Telephone: (630) 252-5103, e-mail: natesan@anl.gov, or Bill Cullen, Mail Stop T-10 E10, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Telephone: (301) 415-6754, e-mail: whc@nrc.gov. Conference information will be posted on the NRC Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov>, under the public meetings section of both the

Alloy 600 and Vessel Head Degradation subheadings.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proceedings will be published as Conference Proceedings of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NUREG/CP-series). Additional details, including lists of session chairpersons, and the contributed papers will be published on the NRC Web site: <http://www.nrc.gov> under the public meetings section of both the Alloy 600 and Vessel Head Degradation subheadings. Presentations at the conference will encompass vessel penetration cracking issues for all primary boundary locations, including upper head, lower head and pressurizer penetrations, and nickel-base alloy, or mixed metal welds used to join pressure boundary components.

The conference will consist of six sessions, chaired by domestic and international representatives of regulatory agencies, industry, and research organizations. Each session scheduled below includes invited and contributed papers on the following specific topics:

Monday, March 24, 2003—8:30 a.m.—12 Noon

Topics to be presented include flaw inspection procedures, descriptions of NDE results, and user experience with component mock-ups or other NDE training and certification procedures; visual inspection tools, programs underway to improve performance.

Monday, March 24, 2003—1:30–5 p.m.

Topics to be presented include descriptions of crack growth rate (CGR) experiments, interpretation and analysis of CGR data for Alloys 600, 690, 182/82 and 152/52.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003—8:30 a.m.—12 Noon

Topics to be presented include probabilistic fracture mechanics analysis of pressure boundary structural elements, including experimental or analytical stress analyses for axial and circumferential cracking of VHPs.

Tuesday, March 25, 2003—1:30–5 p.m.

Topics to be presented include programs that address the mitigation of the cracking or other corrective actions, especially repair procedures; future materials and fabrication techniques.

Wednesday, March 26, 2003—8:30 a.m.—12 Noon

Topics to be presented include application of these results in operating plants, including follow-on inspections of repaired components, and

evaluations of success or failure of these methods.

Wednesday, March 26, 2003—1:30–5 p.m.

Wrap up and summaries by session chairs

The conference is open to the public, and there is no registration fee. Those who wish to attend are encouraged to contact Ken Natesan (natesan@anl.gov) or Bill Cullen (whc@nrc.gov). Further information, including forms for conference registration, and a final list of presentations, will be posted on the NRC website. Those attendees needing special services, such as for the hearing impaired, are requested to notify the conference organizers as far in advance as reasonably possible.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of January, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
Nilesh C. Chokshi,
Acting Director, Division of Engineering Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.

[FR Doc. 03–375 Filed 1–8–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY

Public Meeting

AGENCY: Commission on Ocean Policy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission on Ocean Policy will hold a meeting to discuss the development of recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. This will be the fourteenth public Commission meeting.

DATES: The public meeting will be held Friday, January 24, 2003 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the Amphitheater, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington DC 20004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terry Schaff, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, 1120 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, 202–418–3442, schaff@oceancommission.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is being held pursuant to requirements under the Oceans Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–256, Section 3(e)(1)(E)). The agenda will include discussions of policy options, a public comment session, and any required administrative discussions and executive sessions. Members of the public are requested to submit their statements for the record electronically

by Tuesday, January 14, 2003 to the meeting Point of Contact. The meeting agenda, including the specific time for the public comment period, and guidelines for making public comments will be posted on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.oceancommission.gov> prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 3, 2003.

James D. Watkins, USN (ret.),
Chairman, Commission on Ocean Policy.
[FR Doc. 03–370 Filed 1–8–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–WM–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34304]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.

On December 20, 2002, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7) for overhead trackage rights between milepost 68.6 at Bush, OR, and milepost 96.5 at Albany, OR, a distance of 27.9 miles. The trackage rights operations would be conducted over part of a line owned by BNSF, which was leased to The Portland & Western Railroad, Inc. (P&WR), pursuant to a transaction exempted in *Portland & Western Railroad, Inc.—Lease and Operation Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34255 (STB served Jan. 3, 2003).

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or after December 27, 2002, the effective date of the exemption. The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow BNSF to operate over the leased line: (1) Moving trains containing loaded or empty cars interchanged with P&WR and other carriers having interchanges at Albany; or (2) for pre-positioning or storage of cars as agreed to between BNSF and P&WR.¹

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and*

¹ On December 23, 2002, BNSF filed a motion to dismiss this notice on the ground that separate Board approval of its trackage rights is unnecessary. John D. Fitzgerald, on behalf of the United Transportation Union—General Committee of Adjustment, replied on December 30, 2002. The motion to dismiss will be addressed in a separate decision.