

Signed at Washington, D.C., on February 24, 2000.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 00-4868 Filed 2-29-00; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

Sunshine Act Meeting; Notice of Change in Subject of Meeting

The National Credit Union Administration Board determined that its business required the deletion of the following item from the previously announced closed meeting (**Federal Register**, Vol. 65, No. 35, page 8748, February 22, 2000) scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2000.

2. One (1) Personnel Matter. Closed pursuant to exemptions (2), (5), (6), (7) and (9)(B).

The Board voted unanimously that agency business required that this item be deleted from the closed agenda and that no earlier announcement of this change was possible.

The previously announced items were:

1. Administrative Action under Section 208 of the Federal Credit Union Act. Closed pursuant to exemptions (8), (9)(A)(ii) and (9)(B).

2. Three (3) Personnel Actions. Closed pursuant to exemptions (2), (5), (6), (7) and (9)(B).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Becky Baker,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 00-5085 Filed 2-28-00; 3:46 pm]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-255]

Consumers Energy Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20, issued to Consumers Energy Company for operation of the Palisades Plant located in Van Buren County, Michigan.

The proposed amendment would change Current Technical Specification

(CTS) 4.9a.2, "Auxiliary Feedwater System Tests—Surveillance Requirements—Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps," by removing the surveillance requirement with respect to the backup steam supply to turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater (AFW) pump P-8B. As changed, the monthly surveillance requirement would apply to the switch for the primary steam supply valve (CV-0522B) and the pump test-key switch on the automatic AFW actuation system, but not to the switch for the manual backup steam supply valve.

Related changes would also be made to the Improved Technical Specification (ITS) 3.7.5, "Auxiliary Feedwater (AFW) System," as issued November 30, 1999 (Amendment 189). Condition A for ITS 3.7.5 currently provides a completion time of 7 days for restoration if one of the two steam supplies for the turbine-driven AFW pump becomes inoperable (provided the other supply is operable). The proposed amendment would delete ITS 3.7.5 Condition A, and the remaining conditions and their associated actions would be relettered. ITS 3.7.5 Condition B currently allows a completion time of 72 hours for restoration of an inoperable AFW pump (provided that at least 100% of required AFW flow and at least two operable AFW pumps are available). Condition B also specifies a second completion time: "10 days from discovery of failure to meet the LCO [limiting condition for operation]." The proposed amendment would delete this second completion time in Condition B. The proposed amendment would also revise ITS Surveillance Requirement 3.7.5.1 to only require verification of valve alignment in the remaining steam supply to P-8B (*i.e.*, reference to the backup steam supply would be eliminated). The licensee also forwarded associated changes for the CTS and ITS Bases.

Exigent circumstances exist which cause the Commission to act promptly upon the proposed amendment request. During a maintenance outage on February 5, 2000, a steam leak developed beneath the floor of the turbine building from the underground piping that provides a manual backup steam supply to AFW pump P-8B. The licensee states that this manual backup steam supply line provides no required safety function, but it does provide an alternative steam supply to P-8B for operational flexibility. The licensee subsequently excavated the area immediately surrounding the leak and removed and replaced the leaking pipe section. Since the apparent cause of the leak was corrosion originating from the exterior of the pipe, the licensee

concluded that the integrity of the remainder of the line, which has not been completely inspected, cannot be quantitatively proven and cannot easily be demonstrated to be in compliance with the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code for the entire length of underground pipe. Therefore, the licensee decided on February 13, 2000, to consider this manual backup steam supply line inoperable. Since the plant was scheduled to start up, the licensee requested in a letter and telephone call on February 16, 2000, that the Commission grant enforcement discretion to permit plant startup and subsequent operation until a TS change request could be processed. During the phone call, and in a subsequent letter dated February 18, 2000, the Commission noted its intention to exercise enforcement discretion for the period of time necessary to process a license amendment to change the TS. In its letter granting enforcement discretion, the Commission stated that the license amendment application was to be submitted no later than 12:50 p.m. on February 18, 2000. Thus, the licensee's application for amendment, dated February 18, 2000, is in response to the degraded condition of an underground pipe that is not needed for any safety function and to the Commission's actions in granting enforcement discretion.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6), for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC staff must determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

A. Does the change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?