



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

(STC-15-003, January, Other, NUREG 2126)

January 26, 2015

ALL AGREEMENT STATES

OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENTS ON STANDARD REVIEW PLAN FOR
CONVENTIONAL URANIUM MILLS AND HEAP LEACH FACILITIES (STC-15-003)

Purpose: To inform the Agreement States of the opportunity to provide comments on Draft NUREG 2126, "Standard Review Plan for Conventional Uranium Mills and Heap Leach Facilities."

Background: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has developed draft NUREG-2126 to provide guidance for NRC staff reviews of applications to develop and operate conventional uranium mills and heap leach facilities and to ensure a consistent quality and uniformity of staff reviews. During development of the standard review plan, the NRC staff solicited feedback on the document from Agreement States with active uranium recovery programs (Colorado, Texas, Utah, and Washington).

Discussion: Under the provisions of Part 40 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material," an NRC materials license is required to conduct uranium recovery by conventional mill or heap leach techniques. Applicants for a new license and operators seeking an amendment or renewal of an existing license are required to provide detailed information on the facilities, equipment, and procedures used in the proposed activities. Each section in the Draft NUREG-2126 provides guidance on what information is to be reviewed, the basis for the review, how the NRC staff review is to be accomplished, what the staff will find acceptable in a demonstration of compliance with applicable regulations, and the evaluation criteria for determining compliance with the applicable regulations. Draft NUREG-2126 is intended to improve the understanding of the NRC staff's review process by interested members of the public and the uranium recovery industry.

On December 18, 2014, NRC staff published a *Federal Register* notice announcing the start of the comment period. **Comments should be provided by March 18, 2014.** Any interested party may submit comments on draft NUREG-2126 for consideration by the NRC staff as requested in the *Federal Register* Notice (79 FR 29663).

STC-15-003

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If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact the individual listed below:

POINT OF CONTACT: Doug Mandeville
TELEPHONE: (301) 415-0724

INTERNET: douglas.mandeville@nrc.gov
FAX: (301) 415-5369

/RA/

Laura A. Dudes, Director
Division of Material Safety, State, Tribal
and Rulemaking Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
December 18, 2014 *Federal Register Notice*,
79 FR 29663

staff has concluded that the exemption would not reduce security measures currently in place to protect against radiological sabotage. Therefore, removing the requirement for a licensed senior operator to approve the suspension of security measures in an emergency or during severe weather so that suspension of security measures can be authorized by CFH does not adversely affect public health and safety issues or the assurance of the common defense and security.

C. Is Otherwise in the Public Interest

The DEF's proposed exemption would remove the requirement that a licensed senior operator approve suspension of security measures in an emergency when "immediately needed to protect the public health and safety" or during severe weather when "immediately needed to protect the personal health and safety of security force personnel." Without the exemption, the licensee cannot implement changes to its security plan to authorize a CFH to approve temporary suspension of security regulations during an emergency or severe weather comparable to the authority given to the CFH by the Commission when it promulgated § 50.54(y). Instead, the regulations would continue to require that a licensed senior operator be available to make decisions for a permanently shutdown plant, even though CR3 no longer requires a licensed senior operator. It is unclear how the licensee would implement emergency or severe weather suspensions of security measures without a licensed senior operator. This exemption is in the public interest for two reasons. First, without the exemption, there is uncertainty on how the licensee will invoke temporary suspension of security matters that may be needed to protect public health and safety or the safety of the security forces during emergencies and severe weather. Additionally, the consistent and efficient regulation of nuclear power plants serves the public interest by assuring consistency between the security regulations in 10 CFR part 73 and the operating reactor regulations in 10 CFR part 50, and the requirements concerning licensed operators in 10 CFR part 55. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that the exemption requirements to obtain approval from a licensed senior operator, who is not otherwise required for a permanently shutdown and defueled reactor, before taking steps to protect the public health and safety, or to protect the safety of the security force, is in the public interest.

D. Environmental Considerations

The NRC approval of the exemption to security requirements belongs to a category of actions that the Commission, by rule or regulation, has declared to be a categorical exclusion, after first finding that the category of actions does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Specifically, the exemption is categorically excluded from further analysis under § 51.22(c)(25).

Under § 51.22(c)(25), granting of an exemption from the requirements of any regulation of Chapter I to 10 CFR is a categorical exclusion provided that (i) there is no significant hazards consideration; (ii) there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite; (iii) there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative public or occupational radiation exposure; (iv) there is no significant construction impact; (v) there is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents; and (vi) the requirements from which an exemption is sought involve: safeguard plans, and materials control and accounting inventory scheduling requirements; or involve other requirements of an administrative, managerial, or organizational nature.

The Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has determined that approval of the exemption request involves no significant hazards consideration because removing the requirement to have a licensed senior operator approve the security suspension at a defueled shutdown power plant does 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. The exempted security regulation is unrelated to any operational restriction. Accordingly, there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite; and no significant increase in individual or cumulative public or occupational radiation exposure. The exempted regulation is not associated with construction, so there is no significant construction impact. The exempted regulation does not concern the source term (*i.e.*, potential amount of radiation in an accident), nor mitigation. Thus, there is

no significant increase in the potential for, or consequences of, a radiological accident. The requirement to have a licensed senior operator approve departure from security actions may be viewed as involving either safeguards, materials control, or managerial matters.

Therefore, pursuant to §§ 51.22(b) and 51.22(c)(25), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the approval of this exemption request.

IV. Conclusions

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to § 73.5, the exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants DEF exemption from the requirements of §§ 73.55(p)(1)(i) and 73.55(p)(1)(ii), which otherwise would require suspension of security measures during emergencies and severe weather, respectively, to be approved by a licensed senior operator. The exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of December 2014.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Michele G. Evans,

Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2014–29656 Filed 12–17–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2014–0178]

Standard Review Plan for Conventional Uranium Mills and Heap Leach Facilities

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft NUREG; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing for public comment a draft NUREG, NUREG–2126, "Standard Review Plan for Conventional Uranium Mills and Heap Leach Facilities." The NRC has developed draft NUREG–2126 to provide guidance for NRC staff reviews of applications to develop and operate conventional uranium mills and heap leach facilities and to ensure a consistent quality and uniformity of staff reviews.

DATES: Submit comments by March 18, 2015. Comments received after this date

will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (unless this document describes a different method for submitting comments on a specific subject):

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2014–0178. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301–287–3422; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Mail comments to:* Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN–06–A44M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas T. Mandeville, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, telephone: 301–415–0724, email: douglas.mandeville@nrc.gov, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2014–0178 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2014–0178.

- *NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “ADAMS Public Documents” and then select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by email to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. Draft NUREG–2126 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML14325A634.

- *NRC’s PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC’s PDR, Room O1–F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID NRC–2014–0178 in the subject line of your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC posts all comment submissions at <http://www.regulations.gov> as well as entering the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment submissions into ADAMS.

II. Discussion

Under the provisions of part 40 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, “Domestic Licensing of Source Material,” an NRC materials license is required to conduct uranium recovery by conventional mill or heap leach techniques. Applicants for a new license and operators seeking an amendment or renewal of an existing license are required to provide detailed information on the facilities, equipment, and procedures used in the proposed activities. This information is used by the NRC staff to determine whether the proposed activities will be protective of public health and safety and the environment. Each section in the Draft NUREG–2126 provides guidance on what information is to be reviewed, the basis for the review, how the NRC staff review is to be accomplished, what the staff will find acceptable in a demonstration of compliance with applicable regulations, and the evaluation criteria for determining compliance with the applicable regulations. Draft NUREG–2126 is intended to improve the understanding of the NRC staff’s review process by interested members of the public and the uranium recovery industry. Any interested party may submit comments

on draft NUREG–2126 for consideration by the NRC staff.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8 th day of December 2014.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Andrew Persinko,

Deputy Director, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 2014–29663 Filed 12–17–14; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–373 and 50–374; NRC–2014–0268]

LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: License renewal application; receipt.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received an application for the renewal of operating licenses NPF–11 and NPF–18, which authorize Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the applicant) to operate LaSalle County Station (LSCS), Units 1 and 2. The renewed licenses would authorize the applicant to operate LSCS, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20-year period beyond the periods specified in each of the current licenses. The current operating licenses for LSCS, Units 1 and 2, expire on April 17, 2022, and December 16, 2023, respectively.

DATES: The license renewal application referenced in this document is available on December 18, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2014–0268 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Web site:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2014–0268. Address questions about NRC dockets to Carol Gallagher; telephone: 301–287–3422; email: Carol.Gallagher@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select