

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

By application dated August 2, 1994, UW requested authorization to decontaminate and dismantle the UW research reactor, to dispose of its component parts in accordance with the proposed decommissioning plan, and to terminate Facility License No. R-73. The UW research reactor was shut down in June 1988, and has not operated since then. The reactor fuel was removed from the facility and shipped to a Department of Energy (DOE) facility as directed by the DOE in accordance with DOE, NRC, and Department of Transportation requirements.

Opportunity for a hearing was afforded by a "Notice of Proposed Issuance of Orders Authorizing Disposition of Component Parts and Terminating Facility License" published in the **Federal Register** on September 2, 1994, (59 FR 45738). No request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following notice of the proposed action.

Need for Proposed Action

In order to prepare the property for unrestricted access and use, the dismantling and decontamination activities proposed by UW must be accomplished.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

All decontamination will be performed by trained personnel in accordance with previously reviewed procedures and will be overseen by experienced health physics staff. Solid and liquid waste will be removed from the facility and managed in accordance with NRC requirements. The UW staff has calculated that the collective dose equivalent to the UW staff and public for the project will be less than 0.06 person-sievert (6.02 person-rem).

The above conclusions were based on all proposed operations being carefully planned and controlled, all contaminated components being removed, packaged, and shipped offsite, and the existence of radiological control procedures will be in place that will help to ensure that releases of radioactive wastes from the facility are within the limits of 10 CFR Part 20 and are as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

Based on the review of the specific proposed activities associated with the dismantling and decontamination of the UW facility, the staff has determined that there will be no significant increase in the amounts of effluents that may be released offsite, and no significant

increase in individual or cumulative occupational or population radiation exposure.

The staff has also determined that the proposed activities will not result in any significant impacts on air, water, land, or biota in the area.

Alternative Use of Resources

The only alternative to the proposed dismantling and decontamination activities is to maintain possession of the reactor. This approach would include monitoring and reporting for the duration of the safe storage period. However, UW intends to use the area for other academic purposes.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, the staff consulted with the State of Washington, Division of Radiation Protection, Debra McBaugh (360/586-8945), regarding the environmental impact of the proposed actions. There was no objection to the conclusions reached in the environmental assessment.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 2, 1994, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of April 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Seymour H. Weiss,

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

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Supplemental Environmental Statement; Availability

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Supplement (NUREG-0498, Supplement 1) to the Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Watts Bar Nuclear

Plant Units 1 and 2 (issued in December 1978). This supplement documents the NRC's latest review of the environmental issues at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant.

Single copies of the supplement will be provided to the Environmental Protection Agency, the applicant, Appropriate State, regional and local clearinghouses, and each individual or group that provided written comments on the draft supplement.

ADDRESSES: Other interested parties can obtain a copy of the supplement, for a fee, upon written request to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 37082, Washington, DC 20013-7082 or the Office of Administration, Distribution and Mail Service Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

An individual copy is available for inspection and/or copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott C. Flanders, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone (301) 415-1172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NRC issued the Final Environmental Statement concerning the operation of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in 1978. The NRC reexamined the issues associated with the environmental review before issuance of an operating license in order to document the observed changes in the environment and to evaluate the potential changes in environmental impacts that may have occurred as a result of changes in the Watts Bar Nuclear plant design or proposed methods of operations since the last environmental review. The NRC evaluated a broad scope of environmental topics including regional demography, land and water use, meteorology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, radiological and non-radiological impacts on humans and the environment, socioeconomic impacts, and environmental justice. The staff concluded that there are no significant changes in the environmental impacts expected from the operation of the Watts Bar plant when compared to the impacts previously discussed in the NRC 1978 FES-OL.

The applicant's preoperational and operational monitoring programs were reviewed and found to be appropriate for establishing baseline conditions and