

2.0 Purpose

Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 55.59(c), a facility's licensed operator requalification program must be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 2 years and upon conclusion must be promptly followed, pursuant to a continuous schedule, by successive requalification programs.

The Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR 55.11 states that "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and are otherwise in the public interest."

3.0 Discussion

By letter dated October 28, 2002, PSEG requested a change to the Salem operator licensing requalification training program completion date. This request constitutes a request for exemption under 10 CFR 55.11 from schedule requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(c). The schedule exemption requested would extend the period for completing the Salem requalification training program from October 3, 2002, to January 9, 2003. The next requalification period would begin on January 14, 2003, and end on December 31, 2004, with subsequent requalification periods remaining on a January to December schedule.

The schedule change will allow the facility licensee to align the Salem requalification program with the requalification program of their Hope Creek Generating Station. The affected licensed operators will continue to demonstrate and possess the required levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to safely operate the plant. The limited 3-month delay in completion of the requalification program will include a Special Training Segment for licensed operators. Thus, there is a negligible effect on operator qualification.

4.0 Conclusion

The Commission has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, granting an exemption to the facility licensee from the schedule requirements in 10 CFR 55.59(c), by allowing Salem a one-time extension in the allowed time for completing the licensed operator requalification training program, is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest.

Therefore, the Commission hereby grants PSEG Nuclear LLC an exemption on a one-time only basis from the

schedule requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(c), to allow the completion date for the licensed operator requalification training program at Salem to be extended from October 3, 2002, to January 9, 2003. The next requalification training program will commence on January 14, 2003, and be completed by December 31, 2004, with subsequent 2-year requalification programs to continue on a January to December schedule.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (68 FR 1213).

This exemption is effective upon issuance, and expires on January 9, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of January 2003.

Bruce A. Boger,

Director, Division of Inspection Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 030-28641]

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact related to license amendment to the Department of the Air Force Master Materials License No. 42-23539-01AF, Department of the Air Force, USAF Radioisotope Committee, HQ AFMOA/SGPR, 8901 18th Street, Brooks AFB, Texas, 78235-5217.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the issuance of a license amendment to the Department of the Air Force Master Materials License No. 42-23539-01AF to authorize decommissioning of its Site OT-10 training facility at Kirtland AFB and has prepared an environmental assessment in support of this action. Based upon the environmental assessment, the NRC has concluded that a finding of no significant impact is appropriate, and, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Finding of No Significant Impact

Pursuant to 10 CFR part 51, NRC has prepared an environmental assessment related to a license amendment to Materials License 42-23539-01AF, authorizing decommissioning of the Site OT-10 at Kirtland AFB. On the basis of this environmental assessment, the NRC has concluded that this licensing action would not have any significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Environmental Assessment

1.0 Introduction

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering the U.S. Air Force's (USAF's) request for approval of the Kirtland Air Force Base (AFB) Decommissioning Plan (DP), located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The licensee requested that four former Defense Nuclear Weapons School (DNWS) Radiation Training Sites at Kirtland AFB's be released for unrestricted use. The four training sites were identified for remediation under the USAF's Installation Restoration Program as Site OT-10. The purpose of this environmental assessment (EA) is to assess the environmental consequences of this license amendment request.

1.1 Background

The DNWS Radiation Training Sites are located in the north central part of Kirtland AFB. From 1961 to 1990, these sites were used to train radiological response personnel to detect contamination generated during simulated nuclear weapons accidents. Known quantities of Brazilian thorium oxide sludge were applied and tilled into site soils to simulate dispersed plutonium. The training sites are owned by the U.S. Government and regulated by the NRC under the USAF Master Materials License No. 42-23539-01AF. Four inactive training sites (TS5, TS6, TS7 and TS8) comprise Kirtland AFB's Installation Restoration Program Site OT-10 and are being decommissioned to meet the NRC requirements for unrestricted use, as defined in NRC regulations.

The OT-10 training sites consist of approximately 43 acres, in which approximately 9.2 acres (3.7 hectares) were affected with elevated thorium