

of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will present information relating to the decommissioning of the West Valley site to the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF). This meeting is sponsored by the CTF. The meeting is open to the public and all interested parties may attend.

DATES: May 22, 2003, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, Ashford Hollow, New York.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chad Glenn, Mail Stop T7-F32, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20005-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-6722; FAX: (301) 415-5398; Internet: CJG1@NRC.GOV.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May, 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Claudia M. Craig,

Chief, Facilities Decommissioning Section, Division of Waste Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 03-11959 Filed 5-13-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Proposed Generic Communication; Requirements for Steam Generator Tube Inspections

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to issue a generic letter (GL) to (1) advise all holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel, that the NRC's interpretation of technical specification (TS) requirements in conjunction with Appendix B to part 50 of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR part 50) raises questions as to whether steam generator (SG) tube inspection practices ensure compliance with these requirements, (2) request that addressees submit a description of the tube inspections performed at their plants, including an assessment of whether these inspections ensure compliance with the requirements contained in their TS in conjunction with 10 CFR part 50, Appendix B, (3) request that addressees propose plans for coming into compliance with these

requirements if they conclude they are not in compliance, and (4) request that addressees submit a safety assessment addressing any differences from the NRC's position regarding these requirements. The NRC is seeking comment from interested parties on the clarity and utility of the proposed GL under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** heading. The NRC will consider the comments received in its final evaluation of the proposed GL.

This **Federal Register** notice is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML031270171.

DATES: Comment period expires July 14, 2003. Comments submitted after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but assurance of consideration cannot be given except for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T6-D59, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and cite the publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. Written comments may also be delivered to NRC Headquarters, 11545 Rockville Pike (Room T-6D59), Rockville, Maryland, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Klein at (301) 415-4030 or by E-mail to pak@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

NRC Generic Letter 2003-XX: Requirements for Steam Generator Tube Inspections

Addressees

All holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

Purpose

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this generic letter to

(1) Advise addressees that the NRC's interpretation of the technical specification (TS) requirements in conjunction with 10 CFR part 50, Appendix B, raises questions whether certain licensee steam generator (SG) tube inspection practices ensure compliance with these requirements,

(2) Request that addressees submit a description of the tube inspections performed at their plants, including an assessment of whether these inspections

ensure compliance with the requirements contained in their TS in conjunction with 10 CFR part 50, Appendix B,

(3) Request that addressees that conclude they are not in compliance with the SG tube inspection requirements contained in their TS in conjunction with 10 CFR part 50, Appendix B, propose plans for coming into compliance with these requirements, and

(4) Request that addressees submit a safety assessment that addresses any differences from the NRC's position regarding the requirements of the TS in conjunction with 10 CFR part 50, Appendix B.

Background

Steam generator tubes function as an integral part of the reactor coolant pressure boundary (RCPB) and, in addition, serve to isolate radiological fission products in the primary coolant from the secondary coolant and the environment. For the purposes of this generic letter, tube integrity means that the tubes are capable of performing these functions in accordance with the plant licensing basis, including applicable regulatory requirements.

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) establishes the fundamental regulatory requirements with respect to the integrity of the SG tubing. Specifically, the general design criteria (GDC) in Appendix A to 10 CFR part 50 state that the RCPB shall be "designed, fabricated, erected, and tested so as to have an extremely low probability of abnormal leakage * * * and of gross rupture" (GDC 14), "designed, fabricated, erected, and tested to the highest quality standards practical" (GDC 30), and "designed to permit periodic inspection and testing * * * to assess * * * structural and leaktight integrity" (GDC 32). (There are similar requirements in the licensing basis for plants licensed prior to 10 CFR part 50, Appendix A.)

Given the importance of SG tube integrity, all current PWR licensees have TS governing the surveillance of SG tubes. These TS typically do not prescribe non-destructive test methods for conducting tube inspections or specify where a particular methodology should be used. For example, current TS may employ the following or similar nonspecific language:

Tube inspection for tubes selected in accordance with Table [xxxx] means an inspection of the steam generator tube from the point of entry (hot leg side) completely around the U-bend to the top support of the cold leg, excluding sleeved areas.