NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Environmental Assessment Related to an Amendment
of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Materials License No. 19-30771-01,
Issued to Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering amending Materials License Number 19-30771-01 and authorizing the release of the licensee's facilities in Washington, D. C. for unrestricted use and has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in support of this action.

SUMMARY: The NRC reviewed the results of the decommissioning of the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration (the FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) facility in Washington, D. C. The FDA/CFSAN was authorized by NRC from 1965 to use radioactive materials for research and development purposes at the site. In 2002, the FDA/CFSAN ceased operations with licensed materials at the Federal Building 8 (FB-8), 200 C Street SW, Washington, D. C. site, and requested that NRC release the facility for unrestricted use. The FDA/CFSAN has conducted surveys of the facility and determined that the facility meets the license termination criteria in Subpart E of 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has evaluated the FDA/CFSAN request and the results of the surveys, and has developed an EA in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. The NRC has determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for the proposed action.

Introduction

The FDA/CFSAN requested release for unrestricted use of Federal Building 8 (FB-8) at 200 C Street SW, Washington, D. C. as authorized in 1965 by the NRC License No. 08-00482-03, which was superceded by NRC License No. 19-30771-01 in 2002. The building is six stories, containing 460,000 square feet of space used as offices, laboratories, storage facilities and utilities functions located in a commercial and government business area.

License No. 08-00482-03 was issued in 1958, but the 200 C Street location was authorized on the license first in 1965. This license was terminated in 2002 when it was superceded by NRC License No. 19-30771-01. License No. 19-30771-01 was issued after the FDA/CFSAN offices moved to Beltsville, Maryland, and was amended periodically since that time. NRC-licensed activities performed at FB-8 in Washington, D. C. site were limited to laboratory procedures typically performed on bench tops and in hoods, typically using small quantities of tritium, carbon-14, phosphorus-32, sulfur-35 and other similar radionuclides. No outdoor areas were affected by the use of licensed materials.

Licensed activities in FB-8 ceased completely in 2002 and the licensee requested release of the facility for unrestricted use. Based on the licensee's historical knowledge of the site and the conditions of the facility, the licensee determined that only routine decontamination activities, in accordance with licensee radiation safety procedures, were required. A decommissioning plan was not required to be submitted to the NRC. The licensee surveyed the facility,

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decontaminated or remediated areas as needed, and provided documentation that the facility meets the license termination criteria specified in Subpart E of 10 CFR Part 20, and does not require additional decommissioning activities to be performed. The licensee demonstrated this using the screening criteria described in 65 FR 37186. The licensee subsequently requested that the facility be released for unrestricted use.

The Proposed Action

The proposed action is to amend Materials License No. 19-30771-01 and release the facility at 200 C Street SW, Washington, D. C. for unrestricted use. By letter received January 31, 2005, the FDA/CFSAN stated that no further actions are required to remediate the facility and provided survey results which demonstrate that the FB-8 facility in Washington, D. C. is in compliance with the radiological criteria for license termination in Subpart E, 10 CFR Part 20, “Radiological Criteria for License Termination.”

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to amend NRC Materials License No. 19-30771-01, to allow for the release of FB-8, 200 C Street SW, Washington, D. C. for unrestricted use. The licensee needs this license change because it no longer plans to conduct licensed activities at this facility. NRC is fulfilling its responsibilities under the Atomic Energy Act to make a timely decision on a proposed license amendment for release of facilities for unrestricted use that ensures protection of public health and safety and the environment. The licensee has requested the action to reduce their regulatory burden since they no longer intend to conduct licensed activities at this location.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The affected environment was described in the Introduction. The licensee has completed all remediation at the site. The NRC staff has reviewed the surveys performed by the FDA/CFSAN to demonstrate compliance with the 10 CFR 20.1402 license termination criteria. Based on its review, the staff has determined that the affected environment and environmental impacts associated with the release for unrestricted use of the FDA/CFSAN facilities are bounded by the impacts evaluated by the “Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NRC-Licensed Nuclear Facilities” (NUREG-1496). The staff also finds that the proposed release for unrestricted use of the FDA/CFSAN FB-8 facility is in compliance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.1402, “Radiological Criteria for Unrestricted Use.” The NRC has found no other activities in the area that could result in cumulative impacts.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the facility at the FDA/CFSAN FB-8 site has already been surveyed and found acceptable for release for unrestricted use, the only alternative to the proposed action of amendment of the license and release of the FB-8 site for unrestricted use is no action. The no-action alternative is

not acceptable because the licensee does not plan to perform any activities with licensed materials at these locations and does not plan to maintain staff to perform licensed activities. Maintaining the areas under a license would impose an unnecessary regulatory burden. The effect of the no-action alternative would be to restrict potential benefits from future uses of the site.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff has determined that the proposed action will not affect listed species or critical habitat. Therefore, no further consultation is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Likewise, the NRC staff have determined that the proposed action is not the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Therefore, no further consultation is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

NRC provided a draft of its Environmental Assessment to the District of Columbia Department of Health for review. On April 12, 2005, the District of Columbia Department of Health responded by letter and agreed with the conclusions of the EA.

Conclusions

Based on its review, the NRC staff has concluded that the completed action complies with 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff have prepared this EA in support of the proposed action to amend License No. 19-30771-01. On the basis of the EA, NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts and the license amendment does not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

List of Preparers

Betsy Ullrich, Senior Health Physicist, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region I

List of References

1. NRC License No. 08-00482-03 inspection and licensing records.

2. NRC License No. 19-30771-01 inspection and licensing records.

3. Final Status Survey Report, Federal Building - 8, 200 C Street, SW, Washington, D. C., December 22, 2004 [ADAMS Package Accession No. ML050340555].

4. Federal Register Notice, Volume 65, No. 114, page 37186, dated Tuesday, June 13, 2000, “Use of Screening Values to Demonstrate Compliance With The Federal Rule on Radiological Criteria for License Termination.”

5. Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, Subpart E, “Radiological Criteria for License Termination.”

6. Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51, “Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions.”

7. NUREG-1496, “Generic Environmental Impact Statement in Support of Rulemaking on Radiological Criteria for License Termination of NRC-Licensed Nuclear Facilities.”

The application for the license amendment and supporting documentation are available for inspection at NRC’s Public Electronic Reading Room at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Any questions with respect to this action should be referred to Betsy Ullrich, Commerical and R&D Branch, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region I, 475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406, telephone (610) 337-5040, fax (610) 337-5269.

Dated at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania this 23rd day of May, 2005

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

James P. Dwyer, Chief
Commercial and R&D Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
Region I

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